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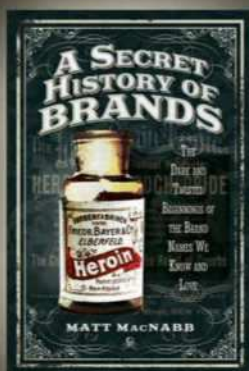




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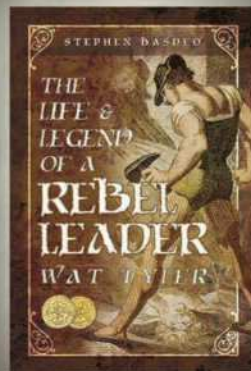
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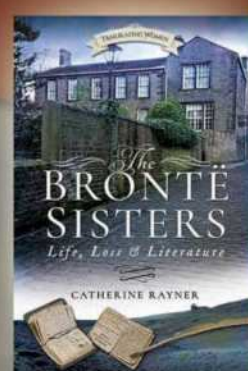
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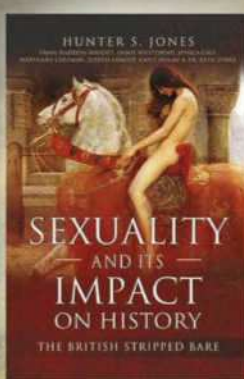
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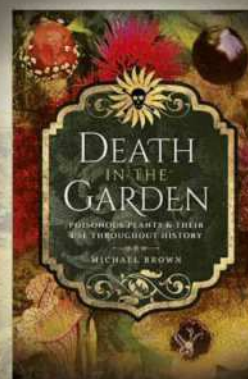
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The Templars were founded to protect Christian pilgrims to Christ's tomb in Jerusalem



A hard day's knight

There's something about **the Templars**. Unlike any of the other orders of holy knights of the crusades, the Templars are seen as **heroic, romantic heroes, fighting the good fight**, sacrificing everything in the service of good against evil. They appear in everything from bestselling novels to movies and computer games. But how much of their legend is based in reality? **Dan Jones**

separates fact from fiction for us in our cover feature this issue (p28), and finds that the former is **even more of a gripping yarn** than the latter.

Another organisation with a slightly more recent claim to heroism is **celebrating its centenary** this year, and so we've turned the clock back to mark its finest hour. Without **the RAF's heroics during the Battle of Britain** (p38), it's hard to imagine how different a world we would be living in today.

Another anniversary we're remembering this issue is 50 years since **Martin Luther King was gunned down in Memphis**. The echoes of that shot still ring out today. We celebrate his life from page 59.

Enjoy the issue – do write in to tell us what you think of it!

Paul McGuinness
Editor

Paul

Don't miss our May issue, on sale 19 April

CONTRIBUTORS



Dan Jones
With his latest book on the Templars still high on the bestsellers' lists, we turned to the historian, journalist and TV presenter for our cover feature this issue.



Stuart Maconie
Best known as a broadcaster on BBC radio, Stuart has also written a number of books on pop music and culture, and life in northern England.



Dan Snow
A popular TV presenter and historian, Dan's *HistoryHit.TV* website, which offers history programmes on a subscription basis, supports history-education charities.

THIS MONTH WE'VE LEARNED...

200

The number of people watching when Marie Antoinette gave birth in 1778. It was common for a crowd to witness a queen's labour – not least to eliminate scandals. See page 46.

80

The number of years that Britain transported convicts to Australia. By the time of the last ship in 1868, some 165,000 had been sent to the far-flung penal colony. See page 74.

10,000

Signatures on a petition pleading for government help, marched 300 miles from Jarrow to London by 200 unemployed men. The Prime Minister refused to meet with them. See page 50.

ON THE COVER



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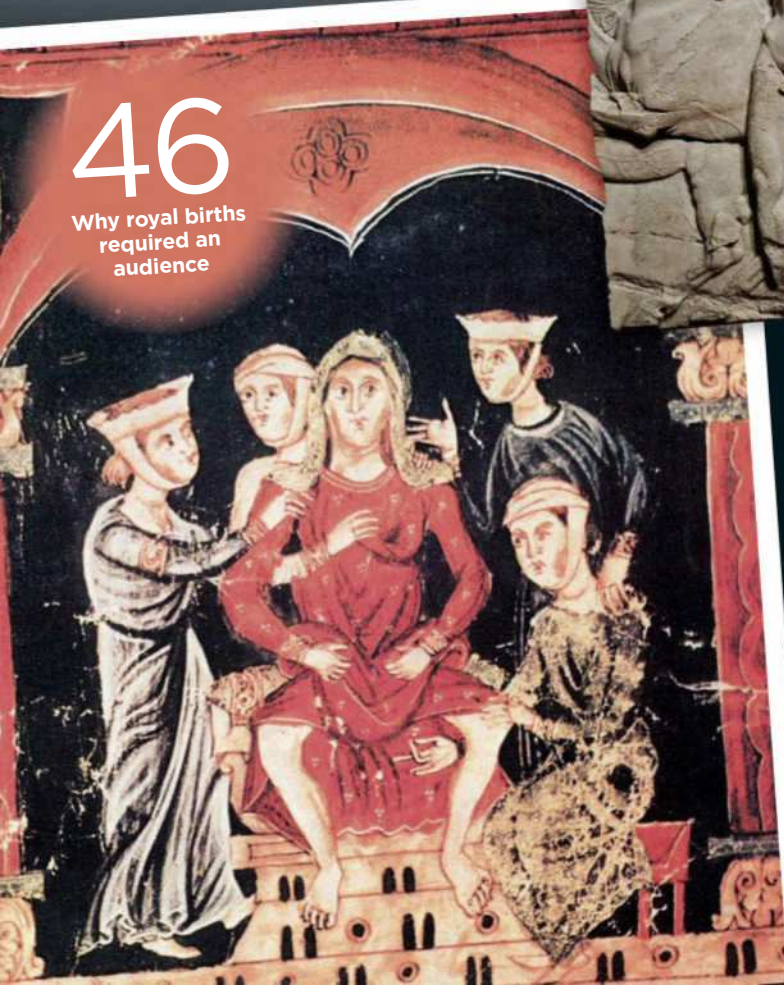
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As crusaders, the Templars are legendary. But where does reality come into it?



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When London was held in the fearful grip of the Ripper murders





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tells us why he
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1945 **CROSSING THE LINE**

Lugging whatever they can in suitcases or boxes, desperate Germans clamber over the bent, crumpling skeleton of a railway bridge spanning the River Elbe. The city of Tangermünde, 60 miles west of Berlin, escaped severe damage until the final weeks of World War II, when US troops approached and the retreating German forces blasted the bridge to slow them down. Thousands of people made the crossing so that they could surrender to the Americans, rather than the Soviet Red Army advancing from the east.

GETTY



1957 ON THE LLAM IN NEW YORK

As a car makes its way down New York's 44th Street, its passenger, a little too big to fit in the back seat, poses for the camera. Linda the Llama is the star of a feature for *Life* magazine, all about animal stars of television shows. Famed photographer Inge Morath later writes in her notes: "She is just coming home ... and now takes a relaxed and long-necked look at the lights of one of the world's most famous streets."

INGE MORATH/MAGNUM PHOTOS



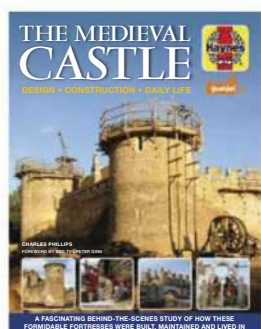
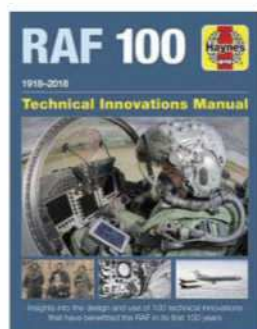


1971 STROKE OR SOAK?

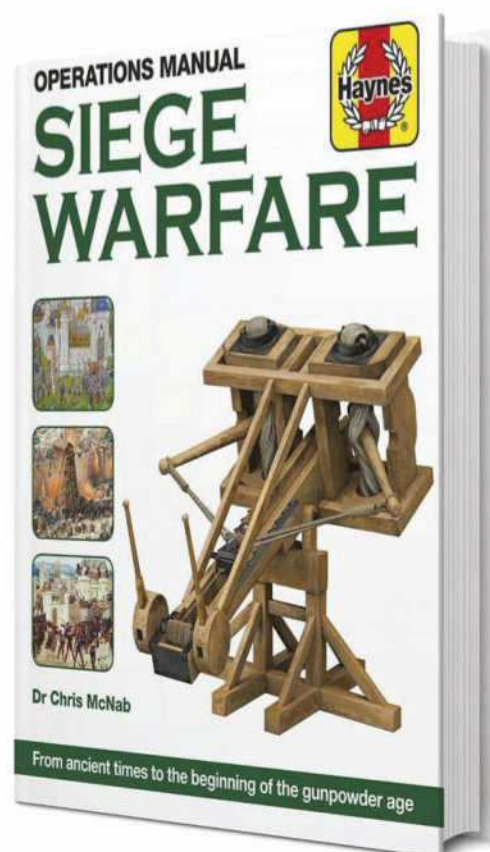
They may not have the Thames, a full crew or even boats, but these youngsters make do with empty bathtubs from outside a builders merchants in West London as they act out the Boat Race. It's uncertain who won, but the next day, on 27 March 1971, the real gut-busting contest between the crews of Oxford and Cambridge took place. It wasn't as close as this one – on the water, both the men and women of Cambridge glided to victory.

ALAMY

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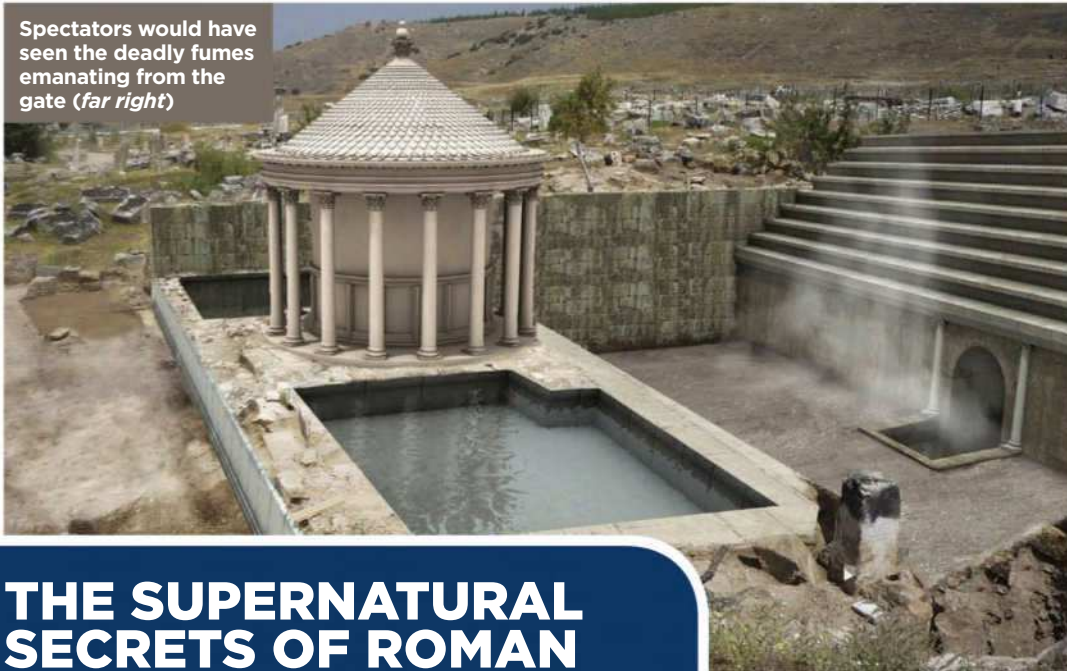
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Image by Angela Ithyle

Giving you a fresh perspective on the events and findings from history

HISTORY IN THE NEWS

Spectators would have seen the deadly fumes emanating from the gate (far right)



THE SUPERNATURAL SECRETS OF ROMAN 'GATE TO HELL'

The cave is still a killer, but not because of a dog's bad breath

The Romans believed that a cave within the city of Hierapolis, in modern-day Turkey, was an entrance to the underworld. In sacrificial rituals, castrated priests led bulls down to this 'Gate to Hell' as spectators looked on. Within minutes, the beasts would keel over dead. The priests, however, were left unharmed.

"Two thousand years ago, only supernatural forces could explain these phenomena from Hadean depths," says a report published in the journal *Archaeological Anthropological Sciences*. Now, new findings suggest why only animals perished at the site – and it has everything to do with geology.

Scientists from the University of Duisberg-Essen in Germany have detected deadly levels of volcanic carbon dioxide within the cave – a concentration of 91 per cent (enough to kill a human within a minute), but only up to a height of 40cm. The gas, emanating from fissures beneath Hierapolis, would have suffocated the bulls, but did not rise high enough to threaten a human.

The gate is part of a ploutonion, a religious site dedicated to the underworld. The site was discovered by Francesco D'Andria, director of the Italian Mission at

Hierapolis, in 2012. In Roman times, the vapours were said to be the breath of either Pluto, ruler of the underworld, or Cerberus, the three-headed dog that guards the gates.

Volcanologist Hardy Pfan, who led the team that made the discovery, also found dozens of dead beetles and birds on the ground. The Roman priests, he said, "knew that the deadly breath of Cerberus only reached a certain maximum height", so could turn the sacrifices into displays of their divinely given powers.



Besting three-headed Cerberus was one of Hercules's 12 labours

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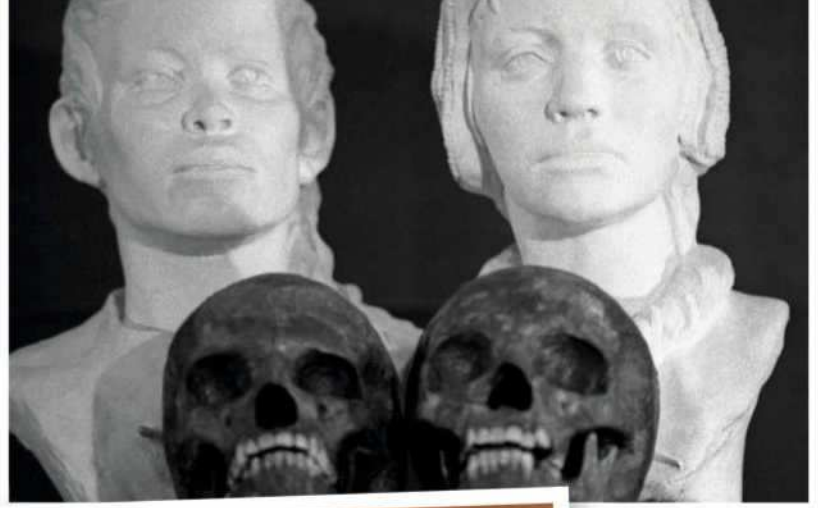
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The major events from a year in historyp22



PREHISTORIC DISABLED CHILDREN GIVEN A KINGLY BURIAL

Thousands of riches filled their joint grave, suggesting they were important members of the tribe

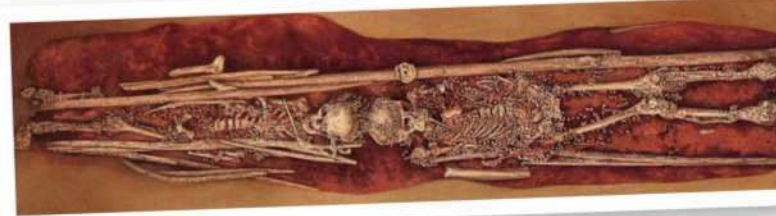


The boys' faces have been reconstructed (above); the range of their grave goods sets them apart in death, suggesting they were set apart in life too

Although archaeologists began excavating the 34,000-old burial site of Sungir, near the Russian city of Vladimir, in 1957, new discoveries are still being made. A recent study, published in the journal *Antiquity*, may offer clues as to how this Mid Upper Palaeolithic society treated those with physical conditions.

Among the ten hunter-gatherers were two boys, roughly aged 10 and 12 when they died, buried together head-to-head in a long grave, which had been filled with treasures. They were laid to rest with more than 10,000 mammoth-ivory beads, 16 spears, 300 pierced fox teeth, 20 or so armbands, carved artwork and deer antlers. Two human calf bones were also placed across their chests.

The grave is the most spectacular of the Sungir burials, befitting a king. In comparison, the nearby grave of an older man, around



40 years old, contained far fewer precious objects, among them just 12 fox teeth and a paltry 3,000 ivory beads.

Erik Trinkaus, co-leader of the study and professor of anthropology at Washington University, told the science news website *Live Science*: "From the point of view of the mortuary behaviour, the burial of the adult is, in fact, very different from the burial of the children."

It is still unclear why the boys received such a lavish burial, especially considering that they died young and had physical

disabilities, which would have affected their contribution to the society.

Analysis of the boys' dental enamel showed that both experienced extreme stress, while the thighbones of the 10-year-old were, according to the study, "exceptionally bowed and short". The older boy may have been bedridden and fed soft foods, similar to porridge, as his teeth showed little sign of wear. "It is really bizarre to have an individual who looks like he was bedridden in a group of hunters and gatherers who were extremely mobile," Trinkaus told *Live Science*.

SIX OF THE BEST... BURIAL ITEMS

Our pick of the strangest objects buried with people



1 CHARON'S OBOL

The Ancient Greeks placed coins, known as obol or danake, in the mouths of the dead (not the eyes) so that they could pay Charon. He was the ferryman who took souls to the underworld.



2 STONE TOILET

One king of China's Western Han Dynasty wanted to make sure he had every comfort in the afterlife. In his 2,000-year-old tomb, archaeologists found a toilet, still with running water.



3 SERVANTS

Although small wooden figures, known as shabti, had to do for most of the Egyptian pharaohs, some went a step further – killing their human helpers so they could be buried to serve in the afterlife.



4 DOGS

The Aztecs had a long and treacherous journey to the underworld, so they took man's best friend as a guide. They could not forget an offering for the Lord and Lady of the Dead too.



5 OSEBERG SHIP

Two Viking women were found, in 1904, laid to rest inside a complete and beautifully preserved ship. The entire oak vessel had been covered by a massive burial mound, and stuffed with gifts.



6 TERRACOTTA WARRIORS

Qin Shi Huang had united China in the second century BC, but he still needed protecting in the afterlife. He filled his tomb with thousands of the now-famous clay statues.

TIME PIECE

A look at everyday objects from the past

YOUR MONEY OR YOUR KNIFE

This blade gives a whole new meaning to 'cutting costs'

This knife may not be much use as a weapon, but it would have helped pay for one (cutting the price, if you will). Before round coins became the norm in ancient Chinese pockets, the people of the Zhou Dynasty used bronze or copper cut to look like objects that had been common trading goods. So, as well as many different shapes of 'spade money', knives like this appeared in the provinces as currency roughly 2,500 years ago. Spare a thought for any nervous traders who couldn't tell if they were completing a sale, or being robbed.



IN THE NEWS

HIDDEN ART DISCOVERED UNDER PICASSO PAINTING

Non-invasive imaging has shown what was originally on the canvas

Pablo Picasso painted 'La Misereuse Accroupie', or 'The Crouching Beggar', during his Blue Period in 1902 – before immense wealth had come his way, which may explain why he recycled a canvas for the work.

The despondent woman sits on top of a landscape by another (unknown) artist, according to researchers from an international partnership of universities, institutes and galleries. By using X-ray fluorescence to see beneath the oil paint, the team discovered that Picasso flipped the canvas 90° and used the line of the hills from the original landscape as the line of the woman's back.

What's more, the non-invasive scanning methods showed that the Spanish master initially painted the woman's right arm and hand, only to cover it with the green cloak seen now.

X-rays also revealed that Picasso changed his mind about the woman's pose as he painted her





HISTORY IN COLOUR

Colourised photographs
that bring the past to life

MARIE & PIERRE CURIE, 1896

Samples in hand, physicists Marie and Pierre Curie are seen hard at work in 1896 – the same year that Henri Becquerel discovered his mystery ‘uranium rays’, for which Marie would later invent the term ‘radioactivity’. Inspired by his work, the Curies immersed themselves in the puzzle, leading to the 1898 discoveries of polonium and radium.

GETTY

See more colourised pictures by
Marina Amaral [@marinamaral2](https://twitter.com/marinamaral2)

YOUR HISTORY

Dan Snow

The TV presenter and historian extols the legend of a swordsman you've (probably) never heard of, and reveals why he dreams of Inca trails



Dan's new on-demand history channel, History Hit TV, allows viewers to watch great history documentaries on the go. Find out more at <https://tv.historyhit.com>.

Q If you could turn back the clock, which single event in history would you want to change?

History is littered with catastrophes. I could try to stop the introduction of European diseases into the Americas, which killed around 90 per cent of native peoples within 100 years. Difficult one to prevent though. I probably have to go with Austria-Hungary deciding to destroy Serbia in the summer of 1914. It ignited World War I, and thereby World War II and the Korean War, too. Not to mention plunging the Middle East into crisis, delivering Russia to communists and probably doing the same to China.

Q If you could meet any figure from history, who would it be?

Horatio Nelson. His presence was electrifying. Gnarled old sailors broke down when they heard of his death. Wellington, a hard man to impress, said that his conversation with Nelson was the most fascinating of his entire life. He is the epitome of the charismatic leader, the man



who lights up any room he enters. But he also was a brilliant sailor and tactician.

Q If you could visit any historical landmark in the world tomorrow, where would you go?

I have never visited the great Inca sites. So I would head over to Machu Picchu and imagine I was the first explorer to hack my way through the jungle and find it. There are so many places to visit, I have been so lucky and spent my whole life visiting remarkable locations, yet I only feel like I have scratched the surface.

Q Who is your unsung history hero?

The greatest general that no one has ever heard of is Khalid ibn al-Walid, 'the drawn sword of Allah'. He was the real reason behind the extraordinary conquests of Muhammad and his successors. He destroyed the Persian Empire, wrestled Syria from the Byzantines and united Arabia for the first time. It is said that he fought around 200 battles and skirmishes, and never lost.

"I have spent my whole life visiting remarkable sites, yet I only feel like I have scratched the surface"

Machu Picchu may be the 15th-century estate of Emperor Pachacuti



YESTERDAY'S PAPERS

Another timeless front page from the archives

GRACE KELLY WEDS MONACO'S PRINCE RAINIER

The press called it the 'wedding of the century' – a Hollywood royal becoming a true princess

The eyes of the world were fixed on the tiny nation of Monaco in April 1956, when the principality's ruler, Prince Rainier III, wed Hollywood's most glamorous star – Grace Kelly.

Still only 26, the American actress's career had reached stratospheric heights with award-winning turns in *Mogambo* and *Country Girl*, and a series of starring roles in the Alfred Hitchcock films *Dial M for Murder*, *Rear Window* and *To Catch a Thief*. While at the 1955 Cannes Film Festival, Kelly received an invitation to meet Rainier, ruler of Monaco since 1949, and the pair began a correspondence. That December, the 32-year-old prince travelled to the US, met Kelly's family and, three days later, proposed.

LAVISH SERVICE

The announcement caused a media frenzy, as every detail of the preparations filled column inches and newsreels for months. Then, on 4 April 1956 – after filming her last movie, *High Society* – Kelly sailed to Monaco, accompanied by family, friends and her new French poodle Oliver, an engagement gift from Cary Grant. Her arrival at the Bay

of Hercules, and reunion with Rainier, was signalled by a seaplane flying over, dropping red and white carnations.

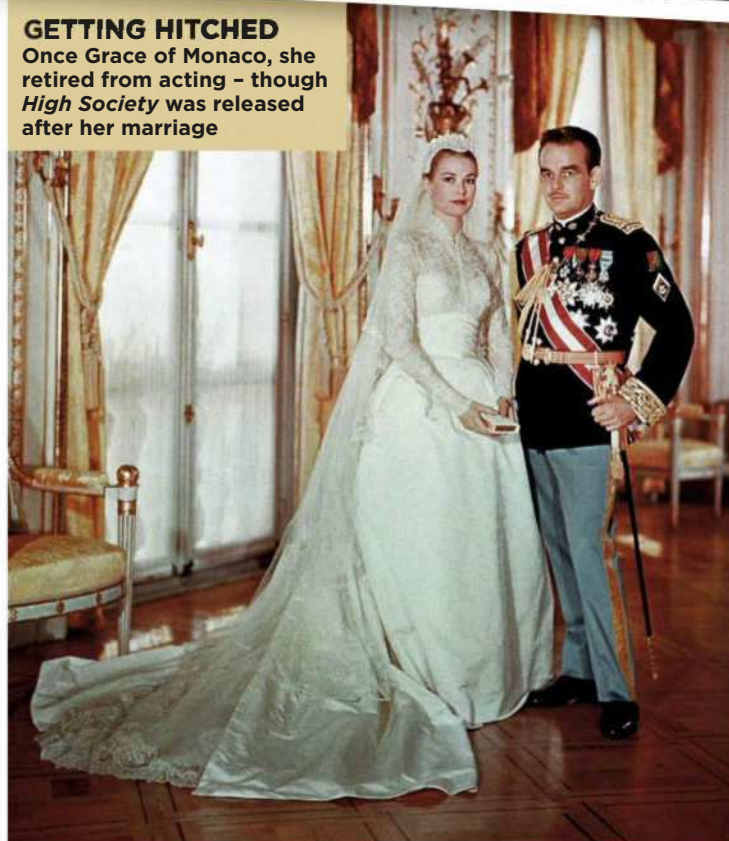
A week of pageantry led up to the two-part wedding, starting with a short civil ceremony in the palace throne room. The next day, 19 April, a lavish public service took place at Saint Nicholas Cathedral, attended by some 600 guests, among them dignitaries and movie giants. Thanks to Hollywood studio MGM, an estimated 30 million people watched the ceremony worldwide. Studio bosses also gifted Kelly her ivory dress. Made of more than 270 metres of antique lace, 130 metres of taffeta, tulle and silk, and embroidered with pearls, it supposedly took three-dozen seamstresses weeks to complete.

Rainier, in full military uniform, felt the nerves, as Kelly had to help him put the ring on her finger, and reports said they made their vows so quietly that it was difficult to tell if they spoke English or French. Once the service ended – with a message from the Pope, no less – Rainier and Princess Grace of Monaco left the cathedral to cheers from well wishers, and departed for a honeymoon cruise around the Mediterranean. 📍

WITH HITCH
Kelly appeared in three Alfred Hitchcock movies, but he failed to entice her back after the wedding



GETTING HITCHED
Once Grace of Monaco, she retired from acting – though *High Society* was released after her marriage



THIS MONTH IN... 1661

Anniversaries that have made history

THE CORONATION OF CHARLES II

An extravagant procession, ceremony and specially crafted crown heralded not just a new king, but the restoration of the monarchy

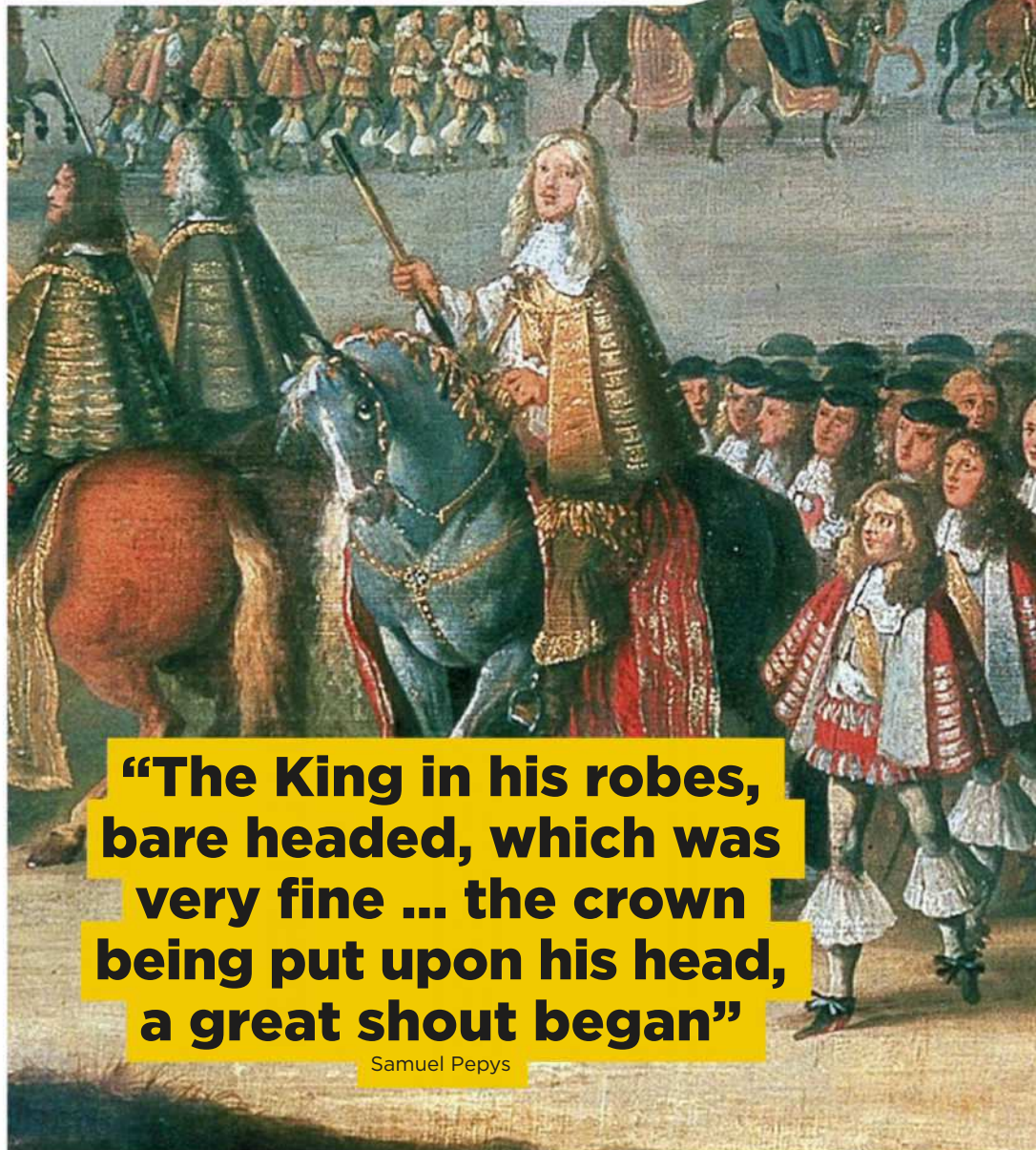
The Civil Wars took much from Charles II. He lost his father to the chopping block, hid as a fugitive in the land he had been born to rule, and fled into a miserable exile believing he would never be king.

Then, in 1658, Oliver Cromwell – the man who had led the parliamentarians to victory – died. His son Richard replaced him as Lord Protector, but did not possess the authority necessary to prevent the Puritan Commonwealth from imploding. Facing chaos, parliament looked for stability, turning to the monarchy it had removed a decade earlier.

Charles – who declared he would pardon all except those who signed his father's death warrant – was invited back to England to reclaim the throne. He landed at Dover on 25 May 1660, aboard a ship named in his honour (formerly the *Naseby*, after the decisive Roundhead victory). Four days later, on his 30th birthday, he entered a jubilant London, where tens of thousands of people lined the streets to cheer as he passed.

A similarly euphoric mood followed his cavalcade from the Tower of London to Westminster on the day before his coronation, set for 23 April 1661. In the abbey itself, he spared no expense on pomp and ceremony, firmly demonstrating the power of the restored monarchy and how his reign would remove all remnants of the Puritan years. This included a new crown, made by goldsmith Sir Robert Vyner, to replace the one melted down by order of parliament.

Among those watching was diarist Samuel Pepys, who described the cheers as “so great a noise that I could make but little of the music, and, indeed, it was lost to everybody,” before concluding he would never “see the like again in this world”. 🕒



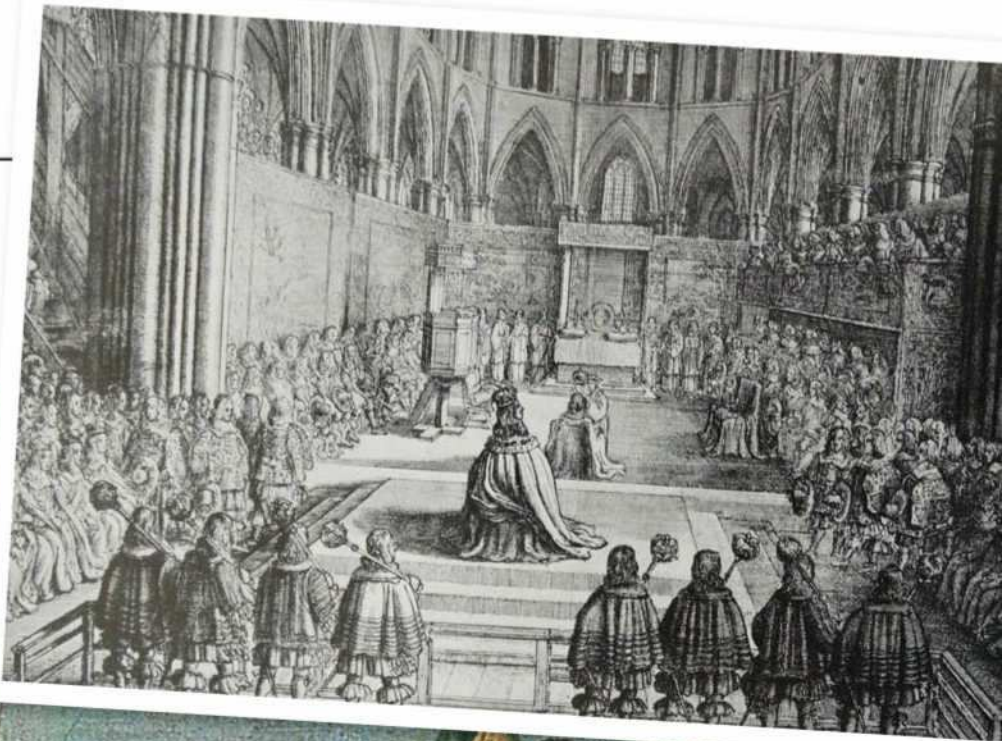
“The King in his robes, bare headed, which was very fine ... the crown being put upon his head, a great shout began”

Samuel Pepys

RETURN OF THE KING

MAIN: Charles II proved a welcome contrast to the Puritans - he would be known as the 'merry monarch'

RIGHT: The King appears twice in this engraving - first being crowned and then sitting on the dais



TIME CAPSULE 1888

Snapshots of the world from one year in the past

HIT THE ROAD JACK

Most of the Ripper's victims were discovered in the street, starting with Mary Ann Nichols – whose death made the front page of *The Illustrated Police News*



JACK THE RIPPER AT LOOSE IN LONDON

The savagely gruesome murders of five women, all prostitutes, committed over three months in the Whitechapel slums, spread shock and fear across London. The police were bewildered. Door-to-door inquiries, thousands of interviews, dozens of suspects detained (butchers and surgeons were investigated due to the nature of

the mutilations) and taunting letters purportedly from the killer left detectives no nearer to the identity of 'Jack the Ripper'. All the while, the growth of cheap, mass-circulated newspapers turned the case into an international sensation as readers, disturbed and morbidly enraptured in equal measure, pored over the grisly details.

The 'canonical five' victims had their throats slashed. When the last of them, Mary Jane Kelly, was found, her heart was also missing.



LE PRINCE FILMS THE FIRST MOTION PICTURE

Louis Le Prince gathered a small group of family and friends to a garden in Roundhay, Leeds, on 14 October 1888 with a simple request: walk in a circle. Using a mahogany, single-lens camera, the French inventor then shot the scene – the couple of seconds that still exist are thought to represent the oldest surviving film in history. Before the first public screening, however, Le Prince boarded a train and was never seen again.

VINCENT VAN GOGH CUTS OFF HIS EAR

The Dutch painter spent most of 1888 in Arles, in the south of France, creating some of his most famous works. But boundless creativity came hand-in-hand with severe depression and mental instability. On 23 December, the tortured genius cut off his left ear – allegedly after learning that his brother, Theo, a source of constant support, was to marry. He then went into town and gave his ear to either a prostitute or a maid at a brothel (depending on which story you believe), before collapsing.



ALSO IN 1888...

ALL YEAR

1888 is the longest year ever when written in Roman numerals (MDCCCLXXXVIII). It won't be surpassed until 2888.

25 MARCH

The first meeting of the International Council of Women is convened. It was based on an idea by suffragists Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B Anthony.

28 MAY

Scottish football club Celtic plays its first official match, beating their Glasgow neighbours Rangers 5-2.

4 SEPTEMBER

American entrepreneur George Eastman registers the name Kodak for his photograph technology company and receives a patent for the first camera to use roll film.

9 OCTOBER

The 169-metre-tall Washington Monument opens to the public. Construction on the obelisk, commemorating the first US President, began 40 years earlier.

8 NOVEMBER

The game of tiddlywinks is patented by inventor Joseph Assheton Fincher.

THE MATCH GIRLS GO ON STRIKE

Making matches at Bryant and May was tough. The match girls, mostly teenagers, worked 12-hour days on their feet for meagre wages, which could be docked for talking or going to the toilet. The phosphorus they used caused a painful disease, 'phossy jaw', too. In early July 1888, inspired by an exposé of the "oppressed" workers, some 200 walked out – soon followed by over 1,000 more. By forcing improvements to be made, the girls struck a match that helped to set alight unionism in Britain.



DIED: 6 MARCH LOUISA MAY ALCOTT

The American author, most acclaimed for her semi-autobiographical work *Little Women*, spent her later years caring for her father, and was with him when he died in early March 1888. "I am going up, come with me," he asked her, and she replied, "I wish I could." Just two days later, Alcott died, aged 55, of a stroke.



BORN: 16 AUGUST TE LAWRENCE

Thomas Edward Lawrence may have been born in North Wales, but his heart found its home in the Middle East. In World War I, he served as an intelligence officer in Cairo, before getting heavily involved in the Arab Revolt against Turkey. His guerilla operations made him famous under the name 'Lawrence of Arabia'.



GRAPHIC HISTORY

MUMMIFICATION IN ANCIENT EGYPT

How a pharaoh was transformed from a mere man into something that could live forever

Mummies have been a staple of horror fiction for years, appearing chiefly as bandaged zombies stumbling around with arms outstretched. But there's nothing monstrous about their real-life counterparts. The Ancient Egyptians saw death not as the end, but another step in the journey, and as such the body needed to be preserved in such a way that the soul would be able to recognise it in the afterlife. Through mummification, the drying and embalming of the dead to reduce the extent of decay (and deter pesky, corpse-nibbling bugs), they did just that.

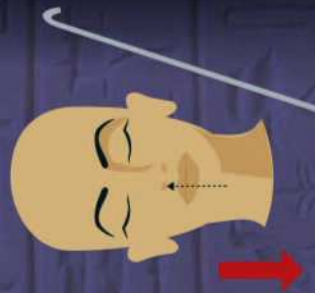
Mummification was not limited to Egypt; mummies have been found on all seven continents, in fact. But it's with the land of the pharaohs that the practice is so indelibly linked. The process shown here is the most lavish, offering the maximum preservation money could buy, but there were alternatives for the less well off.

IT'S A WRAP!

It took 70 days for an embalmer to turn a corpse into a mummy – after which it could survive for millennia, barring any accidents

1. REMOVE THE BRAIN

After the deceased has been washed, a hook is inserted through a nostril and used to mash up the brain. The brain is then removed in chunks – with great care taken not to damage the face



HEART

The only organ returned to the body, in most eras, on account of it being considered the seat of character and identity



FEATHER OF MA'AT

In the afterlife, the heart would be weighed against this feather; if it weighed less, the deceased was admitted to paradise. If not, the heart would be fed to the goddess Ammit, and the soul condemned to eternal restlessness.

ANUBIS

God of the underworld and the dead, who presided over the heart weighing. Embalmers would often wear masks bearing his visage during the mummification rites.

EYES PEELED

Onions were sometimes placed in the eye sockets, after the eyes themselves had been pushed into the skull

BOOK OF THE DEAD

The title suggests a spell book of necromancy, but the Book of the Dead is neither that, nor an actual book. It's a funerary text, written on papyrus, which were entombed with the mummy. There is no definitive version.

DEATH MASK

Helps the spirit to recognise its body in the afterlife

DON'T YOU KNOW WHO I AM?

Ramses II's mummy is the only one to have been issued its own passport, so it could be flown to Paris for restoration. It listed his occupation as 'king'.





2. DRYING OUT

The internal organs are removed via an incision on the left side. The body is filled and covered with a naturally occurring salt, known as natron, to dry it out



3. OILS AND FRAGRANCE

After the natron is removed, the body is stuffed with linen or sawdust to fill the voids left by the organs. Oils and fragrances are rubbed into the body to keep the skin supple

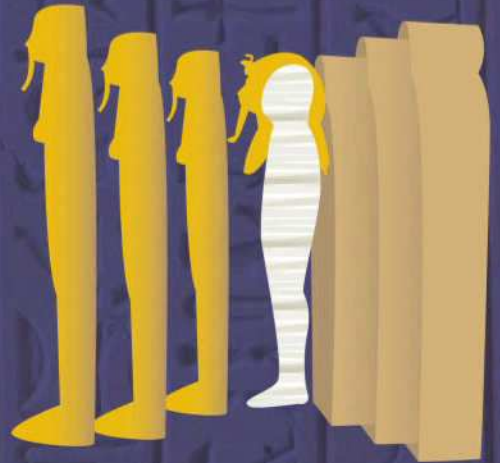


4. WRAPPING

Layers of linen are wrapped around the body, starting with the head and neck, then the limbs, and finally the torso. Resin is applied after each layer, which acts like glue

5. SHROUD & MASK

The final layer is a shroud, sometimes decorated with hieroglyphs denoting passages from the Book of the Dead. In lieu of a death mask, the shroud may be painted with the deceased's face



6. ENTOMBED

The shroud-wrapped mummy is sealed in up to three coffins, typically all wooden and brightly painted. For pharaohs, these would be more ornate, perhaps made of gold and studded with gems. The coffins may, finally, be placed in a stone sarcophagus

150

Metres of linen bandages were needed to wrap a mummy

40 DAYS

The length of time a body is left steeped in natron: any less and it would not be dry enough; any longer and it would be too stiff

MUMMY FOR NO MONEY

If you couldn't afford the full-pharaoh experience, there were two cheaper variants of mummification...



FOR THE SKINFLINTS

Described in Herodotus's *The Histories* as being for those who "wish to avoid expense", a cheaper method was to inject cedar oil into the abdomen without disembowelment, plug the rectum, and cover the body with natron. When unplugged, the oil – and the liquefied internal organs – came gushing out of the dried body, after which it was returned to the deceased's family.

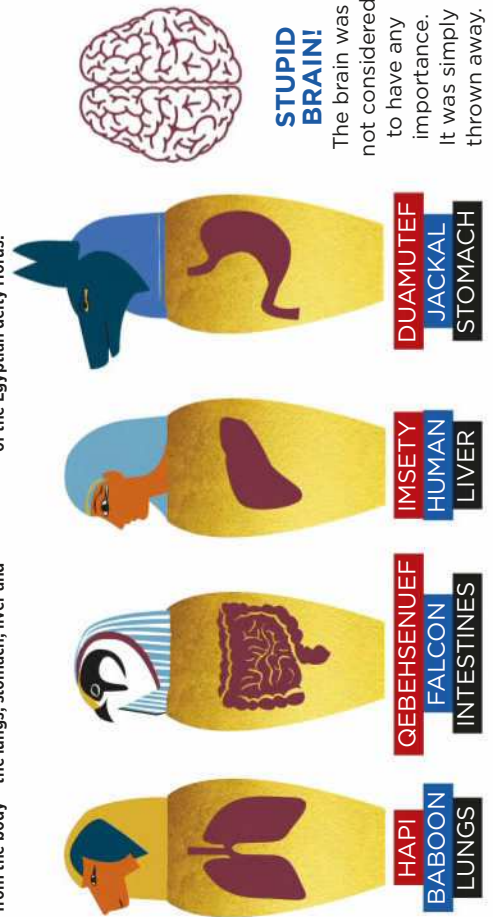


FOR THE POOR

The intestines were treated with a simple enema of oil, then the body was hurried onto the natron stage. It was then handed back to the family.

CANOPIC JARS

These four vessels, made of stone or wood, safeguarded four of the major organs removed from the body – the lungs, stomach, liver and



STUPID BRAIN!

The brain was not considered to have any importance. It was simply thrown away.

HISTORY

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THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

Though pledged to penury,
the Templars gained riches
and glory beyond imagining



SECRETS OF THE TEMPLARS

They were the most formidable military order of the middle ages, feared as crusaders and answerable only to the Pope. How then, asks Dan Jones, did the Templars fall from grace so spectacularly?



“A lunatic is easily recognised,” wrote Italian novelist Umberto Eco in his best-selling 1988 novel, *Foucault’s Pendulum*. “You can tell him by the liberties he takes with common sense, by his flashes of inspiration, and by the fact that sooner or later he brings up the Templars.”

This excerpt from Eco’s riddlesome, satirical book is famous among those who study the Templars, the medieval organisation of religiously sworn warriors who fought at the sharp end of the crusades and have, over the centuries, become the focus of speculation and conspiracy theorising.

It is a joke. But like most good jokes it prods at a truth. Eco’s story is a deliberately opaque tale of conspiracy and delusion, in which various characters become obsessed with the Templars – generally to the detriment of their own sanity. Yet the apparent silliness of the story plays against the fact that Eco does not really exaggerate very much. No other organisation from the middle ages – and very few from any other area of history – has spawned as much fantastical fever-dreaming as the Order of the Temple. From literature to cinema, and from television to video

games, the Templars have provided generations with entertainment and intrigue in equal measure.

The Templars have popped up in medieval romances, including the legends of Arthurian knights; Victorian historical novels, such as Sir Walter Scott’s *Ivanhoe*; and Edwardian ghost stories in the vein of MR James’s *Oh, Whistle and I’ll Come To You, My Lad*. Dan Brown’s *The Da Vinci Code* spins out a tale connecting the Templars to the deepest, darkest secrets of the Catholic Church. The *Assassin’s Creed* franchise has made the Templars history-meddling evildoers. A new History Channel TV drama series, *Knightfall*, has developed its own set of tales about Templar adventure in early 14th-century France.

That the Templars are big business in the entertainment industry is beyond question. It’s also true that the Templar brand supports a cottage industry in pseudo-history on page and on screen, which usually ties the organisation one way or another to exciting but bogus mysteries, such as Jesus’s marital status and the existence of the Illuminati. The smash hit in this regard was a multi-authored 1982 book called *The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail*, which linked the Templars to a secret bloodline of

Pilgrimage was considered to be good for the soul, quite literally

Christ. Eco satirised this in *Foucault’s Pendulum* and Brown leaned into its conclusions in *The Da Vinci Code*.

The interesting question for historians who incline toward truth before imagination is not whether any of the more bloodcurdling theories that abound about the Templars are true, untrue, unprovable or simply insane. It is what – if anything – the real Templars did to get themselves tangled up in all this in the first place.

AUSTERE BEGINNINGS

The Templars were founded in Jerusalem in 1119–20. This was two decades after the First Crusade: a mass expedition of warriors and pilgrims sent from Western Europe by the Pope, which travelled overland to Syria and Palestine on foot. On 15 July 1099, they overran Jerusalem, seizing it from Islamic rule, massacring many of inhabitants and founding a series of western or ‘Latin’ Christian realms in the Holy Land that would last for nearly 200 years.

The purpose of the Templars, as laid out by their founding grand master, a Frenchman called Hugh de Payns, was to protect Christian pilgrims who wished to visit Jerusalem and pray at Christ’s tomb in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Pilgrims were frequently robbed or killed by brigands on the roads of Palestine. De Payns’ men made it their mission to escort them under armed guard and man watchtowers to keep the roads safe.

This was more than a good deed: it was a religious calling. Hugh de Payns and his men took oaths of poverty, chastity and obedience, vowing to live like monks but fight like lions. Knights and monks were supposed to be opposites. This new organisation would combine their roles – a strange but exciting concept.

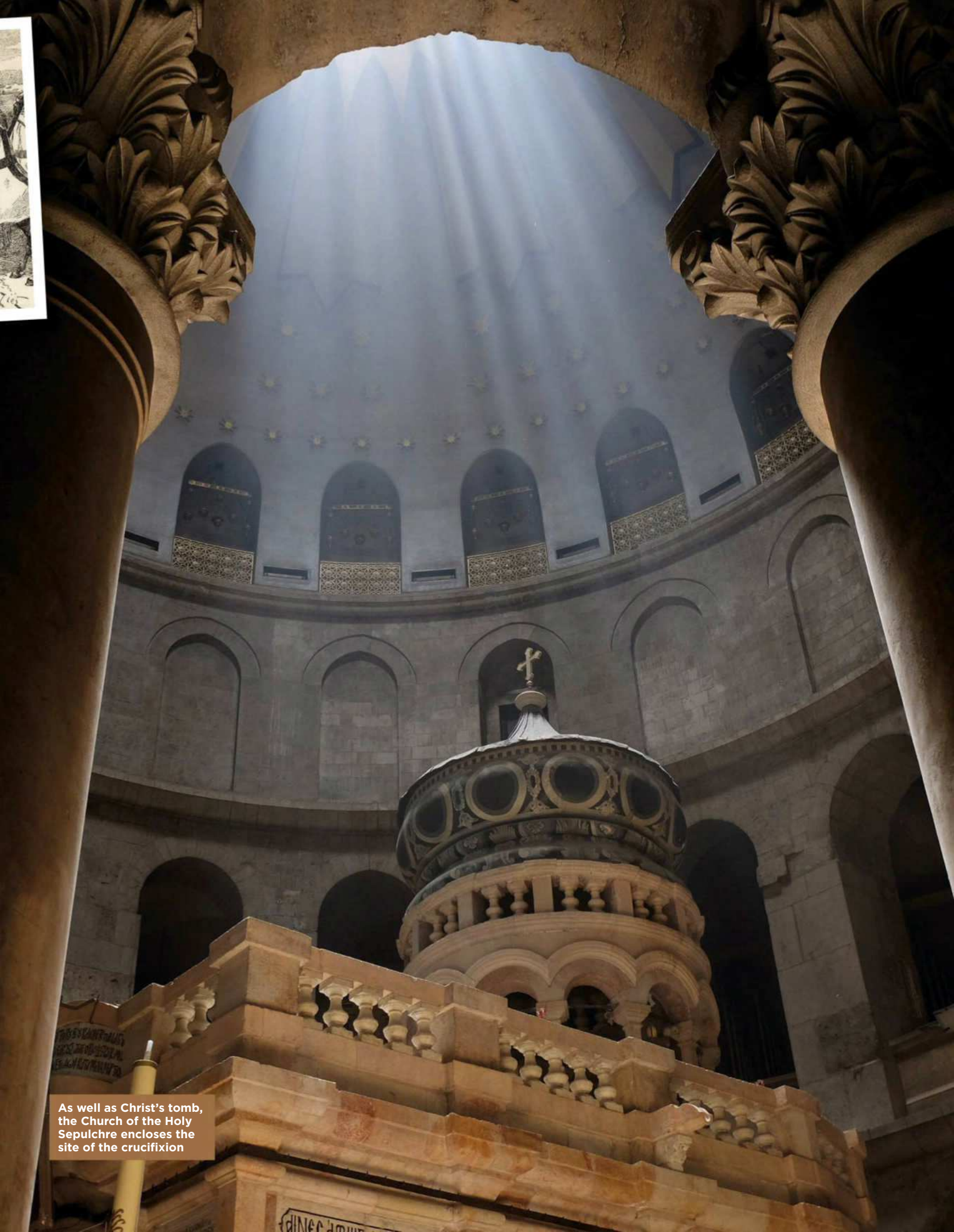
One of Hugh de Payns’ first patrons was King Baldwin II of



“NO OTHER ORGANISATION FROM THE MIDDLE AGES HAS SPAWNED AS MUCH FEVER DREAMING”



Knightfall is one of the latest pop culture retellings of the Templar tale, which began with Hugh de Payns (inset) in 1119–20



As well as Christ's tomb, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre encloses the site of the crucifixion

Jerusalem, who granted these holy soldiers a place to live in a royal palace established in Al-Aqsa mosque on the Temple Mount. The crusaders identified this building as being on the site of the long-lost Temple of Solomon, a fabulous palace described in the Old Testament. Once De Payns and his men moved in, they became known as the Poor Knighthood of the Temple – or, for short, the Templars.

In 1129, the Templars gained the approval of the Pope. They were now an officially recognised religious and military order, obedient only to Rome. They were granted an official ‘Rule’ to govern their lives and a uniform, which developed over the years to be the iconic white robes with a red cross (worn by Templar knights) or black robes with a red cross (worn by lower-ranking servant-brothers known as Templar sergeants).

The Rule of the Templars laid down what and when these brothers should eat, how they should pray, what they could and could not wear, say or do and how the disobedient should be punished. Over time it grew to include sections on hierarchical organisation and military tactics. The Rule paints a picture of an order that thrived on



“BY THE 1140S, THE TEMPLARS WERE NOT JUST GUARDING PEOPLE, BUT CHRISTIANITY ITSELF”



discipline, duty and self-denial. It was the foundation for the Templars’ remarkable and rapid growth.

Having been founded to protect Christian pilgrims around Jerusalem, the Templars soon experienced mission creep. By the 1140s, they were not just guarding people, but defending Christianity itself. Templars fought in armies and garrisoned castles from Gaza to the mountains of northwest Syria. They set up branches in the kingdoms of Spain and Portugal, where crusade status had been granted to the long-running wars of the Reconquista, by which Christian rulers were slowly driving Islamic emirs out of the Iberian Peninsula.

RAGS TO RICHES

When the Second Crusade was launched in 1147, to free the Syrian city of Edessa from Islamic occupation, Templars joined the army of Louis VII of France.

During the 1170s and 1180s, they served in battles fought between Christian armies from the kingdom of Jerusalem and the great sultan of Egypt and Syria known as Saladin. In the 13th century, Templar knights could be found in crusader armies sent to attack the cities of the Nile Delta.

When the crusader states were finally wiped out by the Mamluk sultans of Egypt in 1291, the Templars were the last warriors to leave the Holy Land: their fortified palace in the coastal city of Acre and a vast military compound known as Château Pèlerin were the final places to be evacuated as the crusaders fled.

During the course of all this, the Templars gained a reputation for uncompromising warrior spirit and peerless military capability. They were, wrote one of Saladin’s

Temple Church in London provides a living reminder of the order’s influence. Like all Templar churches, it’s circular, to mimic the Church of the Holy Sepulchre



DID YOU KNOW?

The order's wealth stems from a papal bull. In the 1139 *Omne Datum Optimum*, Innocent II granted the Templars the spoils of Muslim conquests and exempted them from paying local tithes and taxes.



entourage, the chronicler Ibn al-Athir, "the fiercest fighters" of all the westerners in the Holy Land.

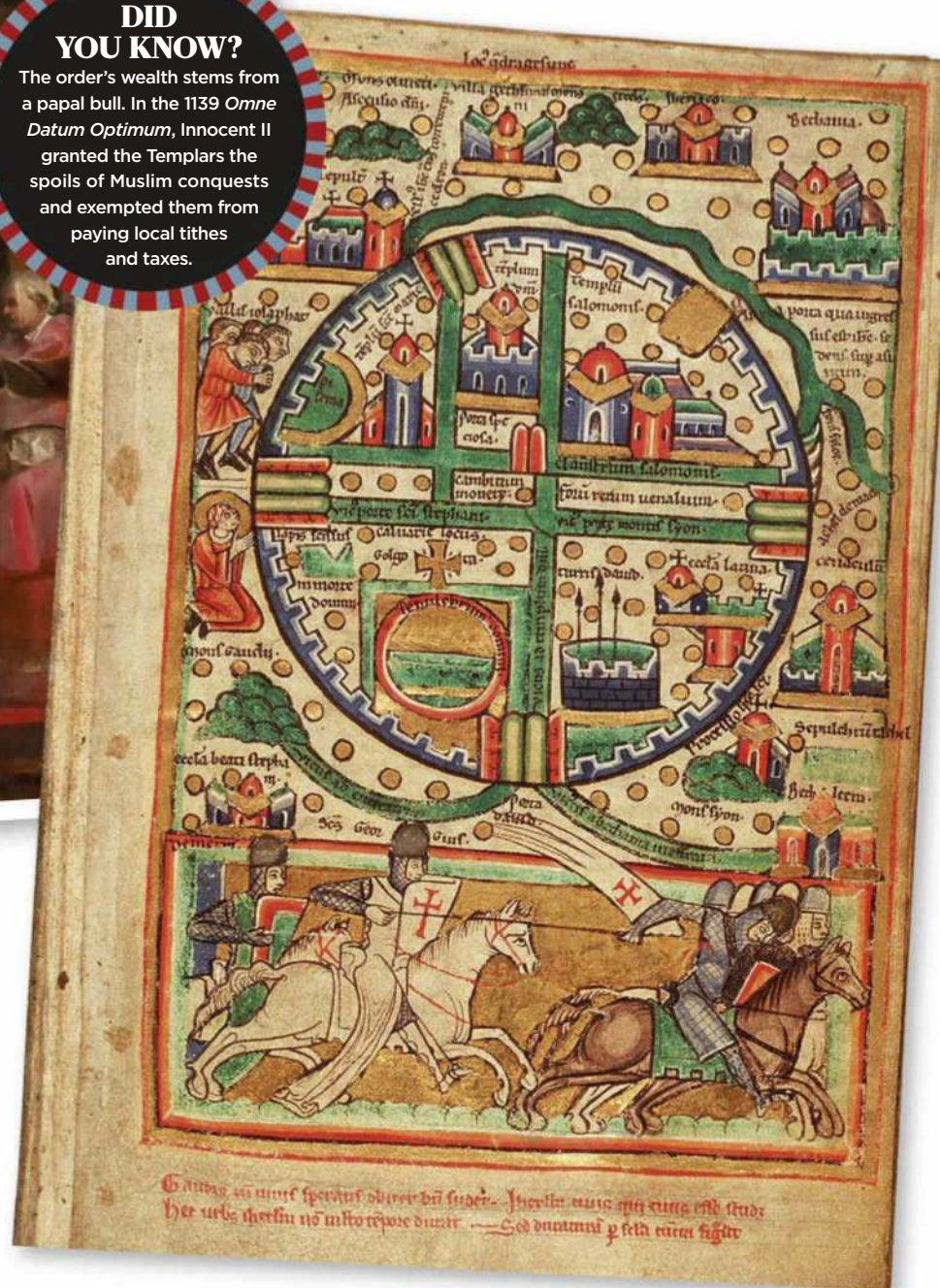
All of this warfare was made possible by the fact that the Templars were well funded and expert in the business of turning a profit. Their popularity (especially in the 12th century) earned them the favour of pious benefactors ranging from kings and queens to merchants, shopkeepers and farmers. They received donations of land and arms, clothing and buildings, animals and hard cash. They recruited a steady stream of volunteers from the kingdoms of Western Europe to join their ranks either as fighting men, military support personnel or back-office staff who made sure their organisation ran efficiently.

By the 13th century, the Templars were not just a paramilitary outfit. They owned thousands of acres of farmland, manor houses, commercial and residential property, mills, fairs and shops. They produced and traded commodities such as wine, salt and glass. They organised shipping. They offered financial services to paying clients, ranging from accountancy services to money transfers, loans and tax collection.

The kings of France employed the Templars to run large swathes of the royal treasury for a century. King John of England kept his crown jewels at

ABOVE: Papal backing allowed the Templars to become a law unto themselves

RIGHT: Jerusalem as it was c1200; it's still split into quarters today



London's New Temple when he was running scared from his rebellious barons before Magna Carta was granted in 1215. The Templars had vast wealth, great connections and enormous prestige, and they advertised it in lavish building projects across Europe, some of which – like the beautiful, round Temple Church in London – still stand today.

Yet at the beginning of the 14th century, suddenly and disastrously, the Templars lost it all.

BROTHERS IN ARMS

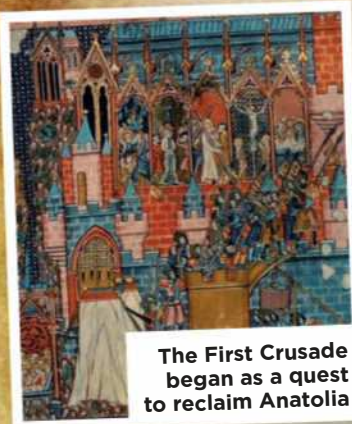
The Templars were not the only military order to appear in the crusading era. Far from it. There were the Hospitallers – originally an Italian organisation founded to care for sick and wounded pilgrims in Jerusalem – which also took

on military functions and rivalled the Templars for influence and wealth. The Teutonic Order, founded around 1190, was a Germanic brotherhood modelled on the Templars. In Spain, there were numerous smaller military orders linked with individual kings. None of these, however, today have anything like the popular profile that the Templars enjoy. This is in great part because, unlike the Templars, none of them was disgraced, destroyed and disbanded under a welter of lurid accusations aimed at them by a relentless and high-powered enemy.

In 1291, the crusader states were lost to the Mamluks. This led to a flurry of criticism of the Templars and Hospitallers, whose job it had been to make sure this did not happen. There

TEMPLARS TIMELINE

The Templars flourished as holy warriors, but without the crusades the world had no use for them

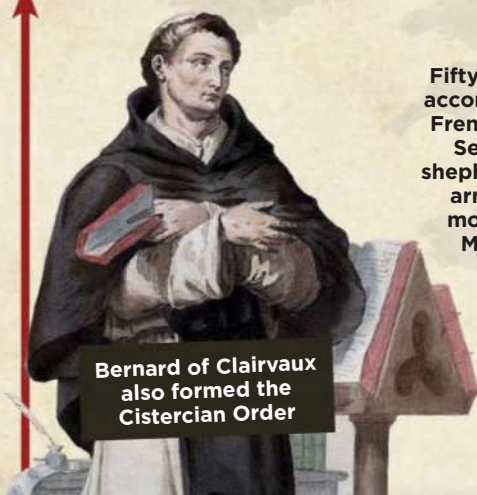


The First Crusade began as a quest to reclaim Anatolia

1099

▲ Jerusalem falls to the armies of the First Crusade, creating a centre of power for the Catholic Church in the Holy Land for nearly 200 years.

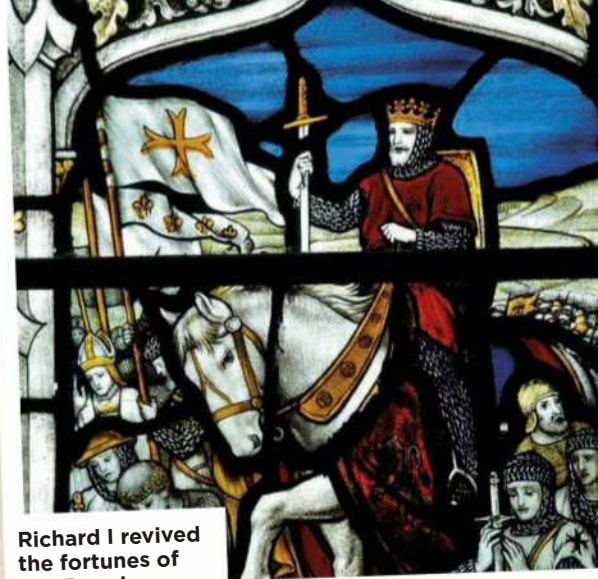
1129
▼ The Templars are granted papal recognition and an official Rule at the Council of Troyes. Their most important early patron, Abbot Bernard of Clairvaux, is instrumental in both, lobbying Pope Honorius II in the Templars' favour and helping Hugh de Payns to construct a set of precepts based on the Rule of Bernard's own order. In a later letter written "in praise of the new knighthood", Bernard describes the Templar ideal of a religious warrior, who would wage "a two-fold combat, against flesh and blood and against spiritual hosts of evil in the heavens".



Bernard of Clairvaux also formed the Cistercian Order

1147-8

Fifty Templar knights accompany Louis VII's French armies on the Second Crusade, shepherding the entire army through the mountains of Asia Minor to safety.



Richard I revived the fortunes of the Templars

1192

▲ Richard the Lionheart arrives in the Holy Land on the Third Crusade. He conquers Cyprus and sells it to the Templars, who soon sell it on - to Guy de Lusignan - after a rebellion against their rule.

1218

The Templars begin work on Chateau Pèlerin in what's now Atlit, Israel. This massive fortress had a deep-water harbour and could garrison thousands of men and horses.

1119-20

▼ Templar grand master Hugh de Payns and between eight and 30 other knights are granted headquarters for a pilgrim-guarding operation in Al-Aqsa mosque on Temple Mount, Jerusalem.

1134

Alfonso I of Aragon dies, leaving a third of his kingdom to the Templars. They never secure full title to the lands, but settle for a string of castles. This draws them into the wars of the Reconquista.

1200-1210

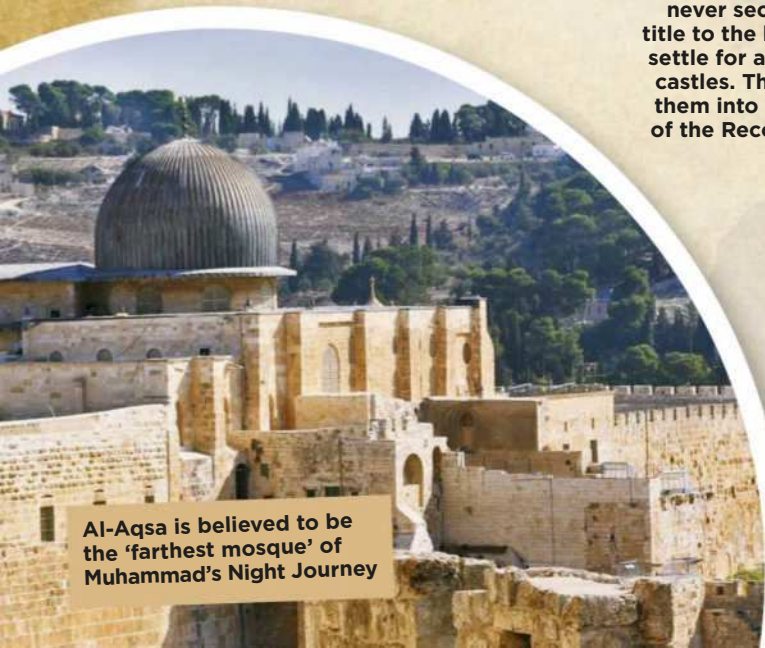
Wolfram von Eschenbach writes German versions of the King Arthur romances, and includes Templar-like knights as guardians of a mysterious object called the graal (grail).



A crushing defeat at Hattin sparked the fall of Jerusalem

1187

▲ A Christian army is annihilated by the armies of Ayyubid Sultan Saladin at the battle of Hattin. King Guy I of Jerusalem is captured and the holiest relic in Christendom - a fragment of the True Cross - is lost, never to be regained. Saladin takes special interest in killing members of the Templars and Hospitallers after the battle. He pays a large fee for each captive of the military orders brought to him, then has each one of them beheaded by amateur volunteers from his religious entourage. One member of Saladin's court described the Templars as "the worst of the infidels" since they "never give up their hostility and have no use as slaves".

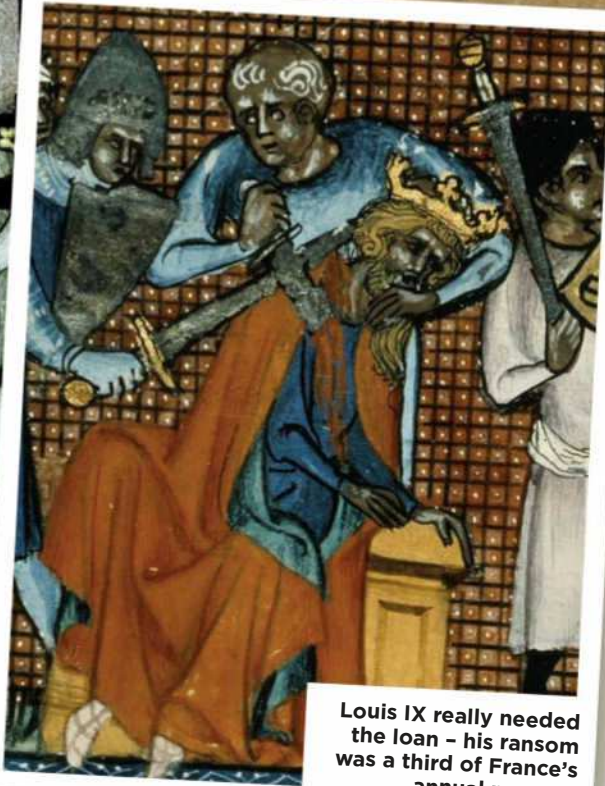


Al-Aqsa is believed to be the 'farthest mosque' of Muhammad's Night Journey

1307

► Templar brothers are arrested en masse in France by agents of Philip IV on Friday 13 October. Bombastic letters denounce the brothers' supposed crimes as "a bitter thing, a lamentable thing, a thing horrible to contemplate, terrible to hear, a heinous crime, an execrable evil, an abominable deed, a hateful disgrace, a completely inhuman thing, indeed remote from all humanity". The instructions to royal agents are to take the Templars into custody and "determine the truth carefully, with the aid of torture if necessary". Brothers later complained of beatings, starvation, isolation and the use of strappado to wrench and dislocate their shoulders.

Torture tended to loosen tongues and inspire confessions



Louis IX really needed the loan - his ransom was a third of France's annual revenue

1250

▲ Templars on Louis IX of France's Seventh Crusade help to pay the King's ransom when Louis is captured by the Egyptian sultan. They raise the cash from their banking customers' deposits, held on a galley in the Nile Delta.

1312

The Order of the Temple is declared to be dissolved by Pope Clement V at the Council of Vienne.

1319

The Order of Christ is established in Portugal. Some former Templars, including the Portuguese master, are permitted to join this brotherhood, which is obedient to the Portuguese king.

1219

Brothers of the Order of the Temple are employed as tax collectors by Pope Honorius III, raising money from kingdoms all over Europe and transporting Damietta in Egypt to support the Fifth Crusade.

1308

Templars are arrested in dozens of other kingdoms across Europe, from England to Cyprus. Some Templars are taken easily. In Aragon, they have to be removed from their castles by siege.

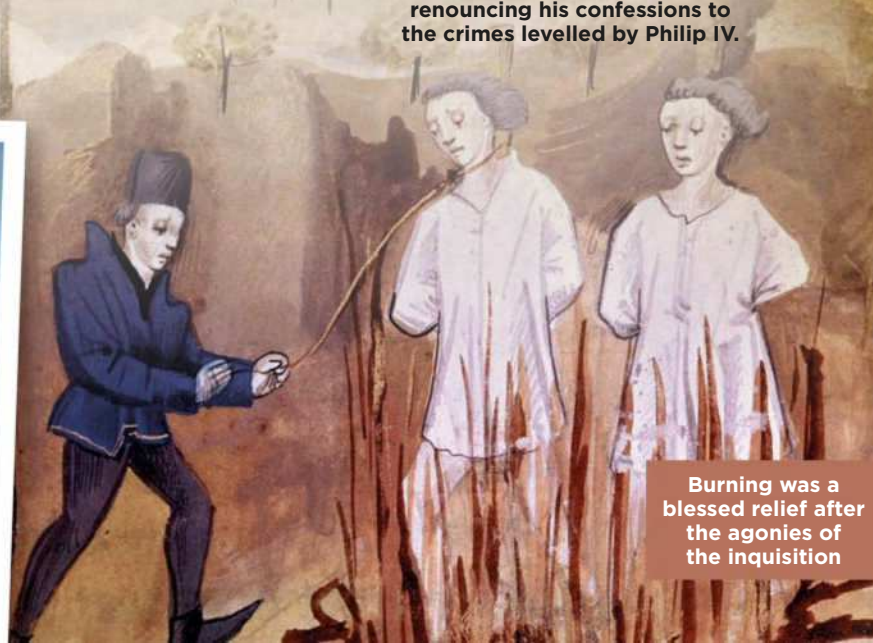
1291

▼ Acre, the last Christian-held city in the Holy Land, falls to the Mamluks. The Templar house at Acre is scene of the last stand.

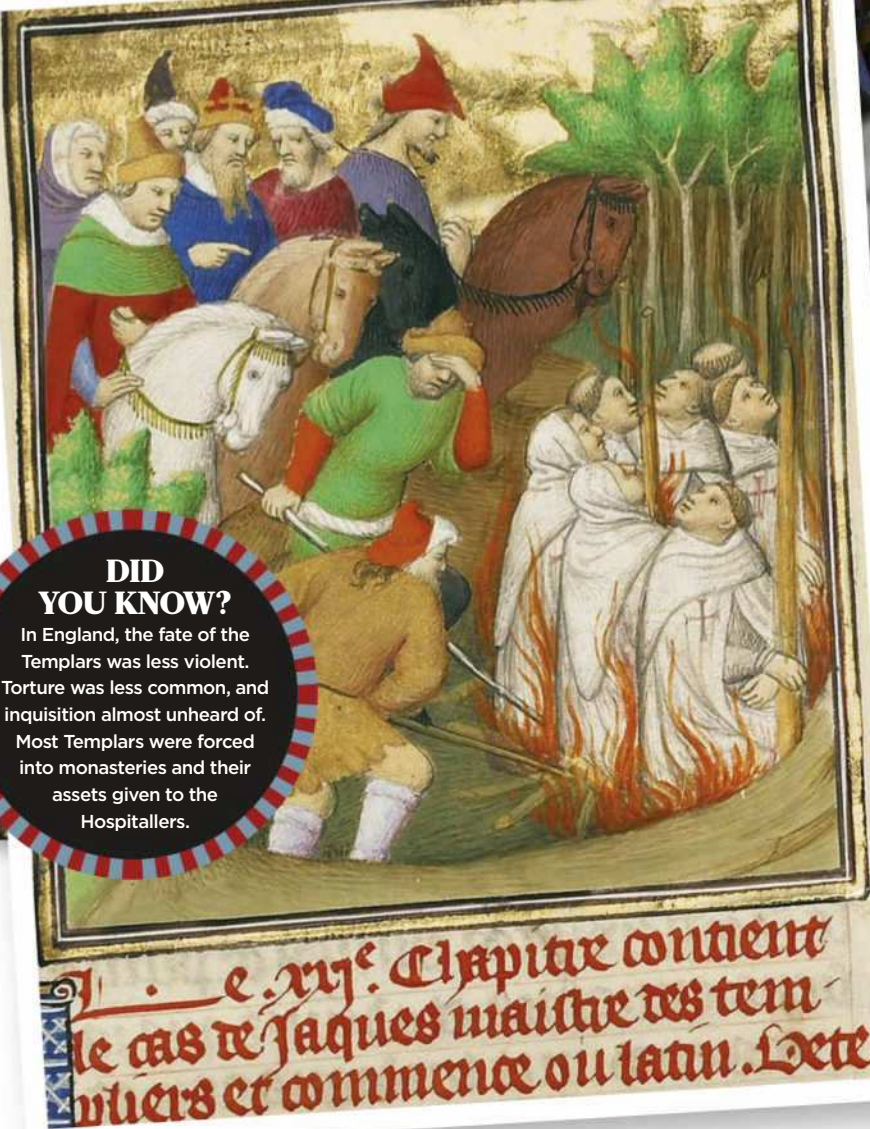
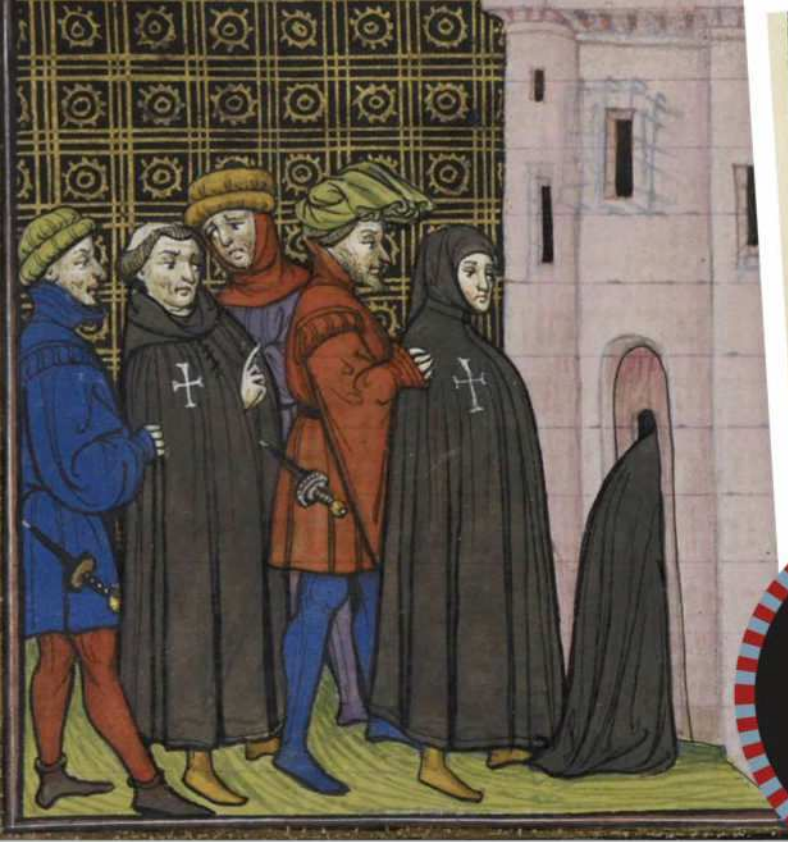
1314

▼ Jacques de Molay, the last Templar grand master, is burned at the stake in Paris for renouncing his confessions to the crimes levelled by Philip IV.

Acre marked the end of the crusader states as a whole



Burning was a blessed relief after the agonies of the inquisition



DID YOU KNOW?

In England, the fate of the Templars was less violent. Torture was less common, and inquisition almost unheard of. Most Templars were forced into monasteries and their assets given to the Hospitallers.

*le cas de Jaques maistre des tem-
pliers et commence ou latin. Lete*

were widespread calls for reform and even their amalgamation, which both military orders resisted.

In 1306, the Templar grand master, Jacques de Molay, was summoned from his military headquarters on Cyprus to discuss this matter with Pope Clement V. Clement was not based in Rome: he was permanently resident in France and had been elected under pressure from French cardinals.

When De Molay got to France, however, he realised that far greater forces were ranged against him than pressure for reform. He had, quite inadvertently, acquired an enemy in the form of the King of France, Philip IV.

Philip was a curious character. His cold, rigidly pious nature, ready belief in scabrous rumours and desire to be recognised as the pre-eminent king in the Christian world made him a very dangerous opponent. He was also broke, having led France in wars with England, Flanders and Aragon while also pursuing disastrous financial policies that had left the French coinage devalued and near-worthless. Having unsuccessfully tried to extort money from the French Church in 1303, and from France's Jews in 1306, he was persuaded, in 1307, to turn his attention to the Templars.

NAILED TO THEIR CROSS

On Friday 13 October 1307, Philip's royal agents turned up at every Templar house in France, brandishing letters accusing the brothers of a grotesque cocktail of crimes, which ranged from the wildly exaggerated to the wholly made up. The Templars were said to have spat and urinated on the cross, denied Christ

in their induction ceremonies, kissed and fondled one another and worshipped statues. This was medieval fake news, but it didn't matter. All the Templars in Philip's kingdom, including Jacques de Molay, were arrested, jailed, violently tortured and forced to admit to the alleged abuses in public. Philip and his ministers' goal was to discredit the organisation in France, roll it up and take its land, property and wealth.

In the end, they went much further. The shocking nature of the accusations against the Templars made the arrests in France a toxic and infectious international event. Clement was deeply uncomfortable, but he was also Philip's lapdog: thus he colluded with the King's ministers and ordered every other monarch in Christendom to arrest and try their own Templars. This they did, in a sprawling and long-running bureaucratic terror, which amassed thousands of confessions.

On such evidence, in 1312, still under intense pressure from Philip, Clement

ABOVE LEFT:
When the mass arrests came in October 1307, the battle-hardened warriors allowed themselves to be led meekly away

ABOVE: Philip IV watches a Templar execution; the lucky ones would die from the smoke rather than the flames

declared the Order of the Temple to be defunct. It was wound up and its members pensioned off or, in the case of De Molay and several other senior leaders, burned at the stake as heretics.

LOST LEGACY

This bizarre end to the Templar story obviously raises many exciting questions. Were the Templars guilty? Was there some dark secret they held that Clement and Philip needed to protect? What happened to their wealth? Did any Templars escape? If so, did the order survive? Is it still operating from the shadows today?

Many of these questions can be readily answered from historical evidence. Most Templars were plainly not guilty of the majority of their supposed crimes. Their real wealth, mostly existing in land and property, was given to the Hospitallers.



“THE TEMPLARS WERE SAID TO HAVE URINATED ON THE CROSS AND FONDLED ONE ANOTHER”





The Templars remain a touchstone for some modern-day Catholics

Their coin, which was a fortune, but only a small one, disappeared – much of it very likely into the French royal treasury, where it was always destined.

Yes, some Templars did escape, but the majority did not, and since the order had been stripped of all its most useful possessions and properties, a few renegades from a roundly discredited organisation were not in much of a position to change world history either way. There are many people today who belong to revived Templar-style organisations, ranging from charitable Christian societies and Freemasons to neo-fascists and a Mexican drug cartel called Los Caballeros Templarios. There is little evidence to suggest that any of them exert meaningful influence on global affairs.

Despite this, the Templars continue to exert a pull on the human imagination that is far beyond the events of their times. Even when they were at the height of their fame in the middle ages, writers began inserting them into legends and romances – German knight Wolfram von Eschenbach was the first to associate the Templars with the 'grail', or Holy Grail – a mysterious object infused with divine properties. He was writing between 1200 and 1210.

The key to the Templars' enduring popularity rests in a few clear factors. Chief is the dramatic nature of their fall, bolstered as it was by outrageous, sexed-up accusations. That the salacious nature of this persecution continues to fascinate people seven centuries after the fact

is testament to the power of the black propaganda ranged against them.

The Templar 'brand', meanwhile, remains nearly as appealing now as it ever was. Their name is inherently linked with the mysteries of the Old and New Testaments, as well as one of the world's most revered religious locations. Their fusion of soldier and godly man remains a beguiling paradox, the holy killer who performs evil acts in the name of a higher good. The simple, bold design of their uniforms and the rigidity of their moral and military code combine to give them the appearance of medieval supermen.

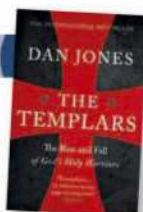
Then, there is the weight of speculation itself. Over the years the Templars have accrued so many layers of misinformation that it is increasingly hard to unpick it all. The facts are buried so deep beneath mystery that they have become of only minor interest.

All of which is a shame. Because while pseudo-histories will most likely always be attractive to screenwriters, cranks and lunatics, the real history of the Templars is far richer in incident, excitement and intrigue than any number of conspiracy theories could ever be. Truth, in this case, is just as strange and more satisfying than fiction. 🎯

GET HOOKED

BOOK

The Templars: The Rise and Fall of God's Holy Warriors by Dan Jones is now available in paperback (Head of Zeus)



THE BURNING QUESTION...

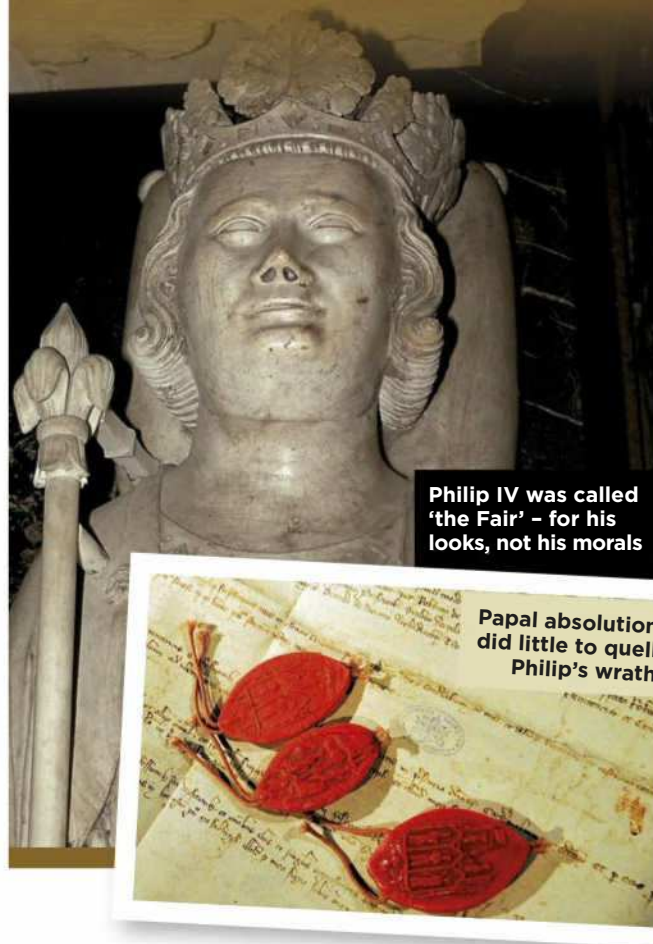
Did Jacques de Molay create a Templar curse?

The last Templar grand master, Jacques de Molay, endured nearly seven years in prison following his arrest in France in October 1307. De Molay was tortured numerous times and his testimony at his trial hearings was confused and contradictory, most likely due to his ill-treatment in prison.

De Molay was held in Château de Chinon for a time, with a number of other senior Templars. In August 1308, they were visited by cardinals sent by the Pope. De Molay confessed to the cardinals certain heresies, including denying that Christ was his saviour. The cardinals heard his confession and forgave him his sins. The details of this encounter were written up in a document lost for centuries in the papal archives, the so-called Chinon Parchment (*pictured below*), rediscovered in 2001 by researcher Barbara Frale.

On 18 March 1314, following the order's disbandment, De Molay was brought to a public sentencing in Paris, where he was told that despite his confession he would be imprisoned for life for his misdeeds. Distraught, he told the court that he was innocent of all his crimes. This made him a relapsed heretic – he had gone back to his old errors. The punishment for this was death by burning and it was carried out the same day.

One witness wrote that, before he died, De Molay shouted, "God will avenge our death." By the end of the year, both Philip IV and Clement V were dead too.



Philip IV was called 'the Fair' – for his looks, not his morals

Papal absolution did little to quell Philip's wrath

RAF pilots had to drop everything as soon as they heard the call 'Scramble!'



ON A WING AND A PRAYER

HOW THE RAF TURNED THE TIDE

.....

On the RAF's centenary, **Gavin Mortimer** reveals
how our stunted air force recovered from
years of neglect and stood up to Göring's
Luftwaffe – starting with the Battle of Britain





ABOVE: The growl of German bombers struck fear into English cities
RIGHT: The Nazis revelled in the chaotic aftermath of Dunkirk



On 12 May 1940, five RAF Fairey Battle bombers of No 12 Squadron approached the Albert Canal in Belgium. Two days earlier, the Germans had invaded the Low Countries; the aircraft were on a mission to hinder the Nazi advance by destroying two bridges at Veldwezelt and Vroenhoven.

Leading the raid was Flying Officer Donald Garland, 21, and 25-year-old navigator Thomas Gray. As they came within range of the German ground defences they were greeted by an almighty flak barrage. Two of the five Faireys made for the bridge at Vroenhoven, while Garland led the remainder towards Veldwezelt.

Dropping in height from 300 metres to 40 metres, the crews of the Veldwezelt-bound bombers prepared to jettison their 100kg payloads. The crackle of machine guns joined the boom of anti-aircraft guns and two of the Faireys were hit, leaving Garland and Gray to press home the attack. So low was their aircraft that the German gunners could hardly miss. Bullets and shells tore through the Fairey. Smoke began to pour from the stricken fuselage and then, as the bomb was released, the plane fell from the sky.

Garland and Gray were awarded posthumous Victoria Crosses for their part in the attack, which while admirable in its audacity came at a high cost, with only one aircraft returning to base. Nonetheless, the crews had upheld the finest traditions of the Royal Air Force, displaying the same courage and coolness that had been

synonymous with their forebears in World War I.

When Britain declared war on Germany in September 1939, it did so from a position of weakness. The British, and the French, had tried to appease Hitler for much of the 1930s, desperate to avoid another world war, whereas the Nazi leader had been preparing for a conflict for several years.

The Luftwaffe had tested itself during the Spanish Civil War of 1936-39, notably in its destruction of the city in Guernica in 1937, and manufacturing companies such as Junkers, Messerschmitt and Heinkel helped to develop fighter and bomber aircraft far superior to anything that could be fielded by the RAF. What's more, the Nazis had understood long before their enemies how aircraft and another recent military innovation, the tank, could combine in a new form of warfare they called 'blitzkrieg'.

TOOTHLESS LIONS

The RAF was years behind. When John Freeborn joined No 74 Squadron - one of the legendary squadrons from World War I - in 1938, it was still equipped with slow and lightly armed biplanes. They were no match for the top

Luftwaffe fighter, the Messerschmitt Bf 109, which could reach speeds of almost 380mph. It wasn't until February 1939 that No 74 squadron received a new fighter aircraft, in the form of the Spitfire, while other squadrons traded in their obsolete biplanes for the Hawker Hurricane.

Nonetheless, when war was declared, the RAF's Advanced Air Striking Force (AASF), which was despatched to France as part of the British Expeditionary Force, was alarmingly under strength. Its bombers, the Faireys and Blenheims, were easy prey for Luftwaffe fighters, individual pilots' courage proving futile in the face of superior speed and firepower.

The attack on the Veldwezelt and Vroenhoven bridges highlighted the gulf in technological sophistication between the RAF and the Luftwaffe, encouraging the Nazis to believe that the battle for air supremacy over Britain would be a brief and ultimately triumphant affair.

It was the RAF that bore the brunt of the losses in May 1940, as the British were

I WAS THERE... THE SPITFIRE ACE

JOHN FREEBORN

No fighter pilot flew more operational hours during the Battle of Britain than John Freeborn. The Spitfire ace shot down 12 enemy aircraft while flying with No 74 Squadron, receiving a Distinguished Flying Cross and bar in recognition of his contribution in defeating the Luftwaffe. Freeborn joined the RAF in 1938 and qualified as a fighter pilot the following year. It wasn't until 1939, however, that he first flew a Spitfire.

"It was a wonderful machine," he recalled. "It was the first time I'd flown a monoplane because prior to the Spitfire we'd flown Gloster Gauntlets [biplanes], so I was a little nervous. The first time I took off it went so bloody fast I went straight between two hangars at 180mph!"

Freeborn shot down his first aircraft in May 1940 and had no qualms about killing the enemy. "I didn't give a damn about them," he said. "It made me so angry to see the Luftwaffe dropping

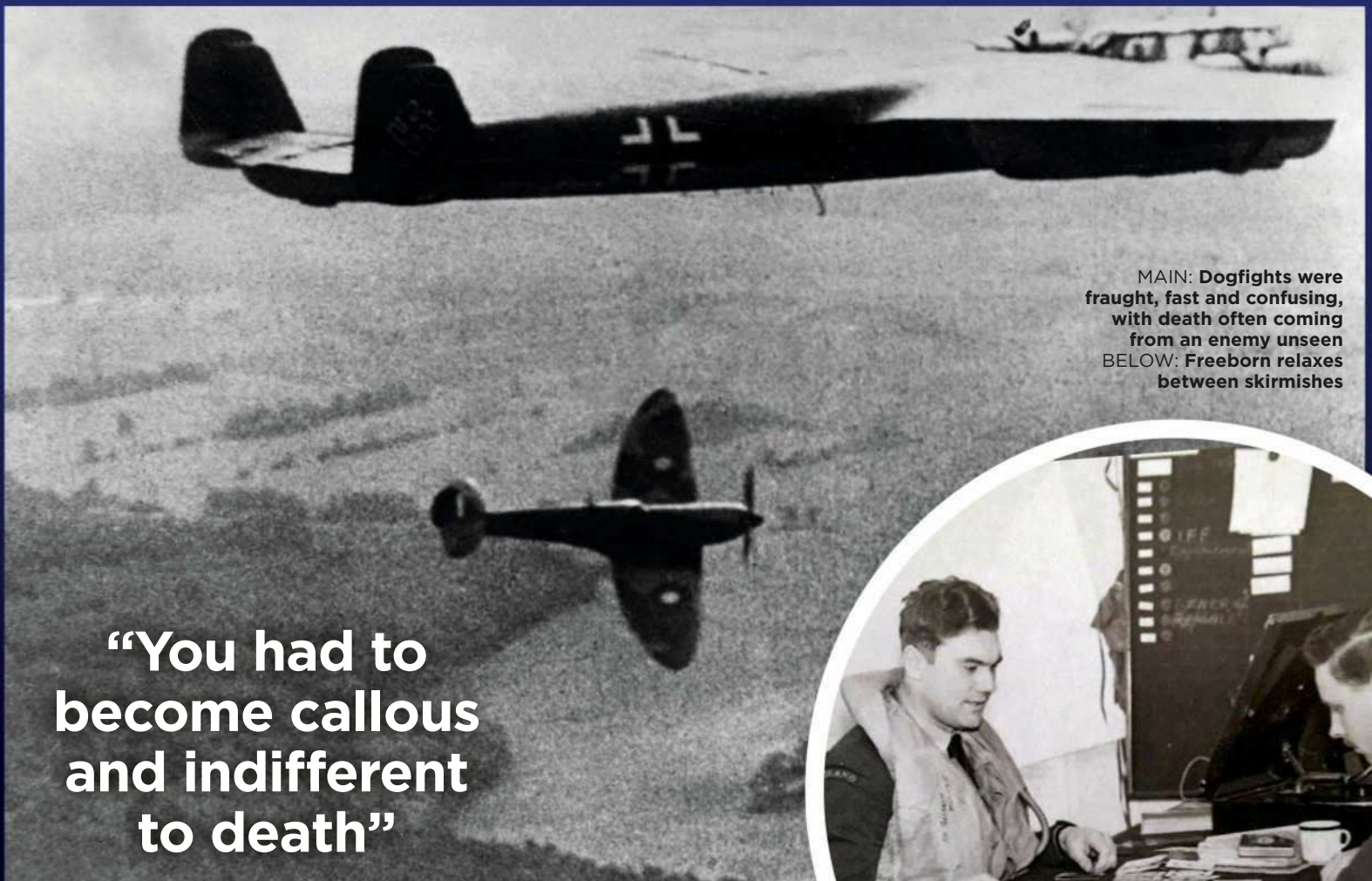
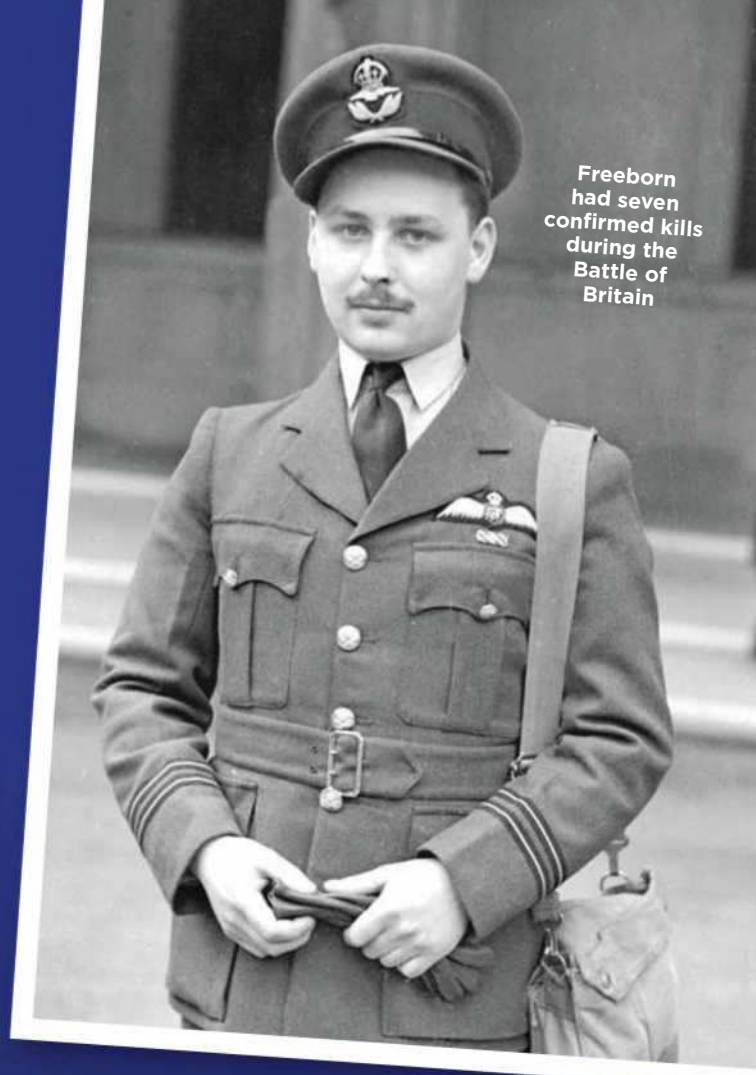
bombs on London so I did what I could to prevent it."

A thick-skinned philosophy was essential for any RAF pilot during the Battle of Britain, when death was almost a daily occurrence. "You had to become callous and indifferent to death," remarked Freeborn, who saw many of his friends die.

What Freeborn feared above all else was being burned alive in the cockpit. "I got shot down ... during a fight and the top tank went," he said. "Fortunately it was full because if it had been half full, the vapour would have gone 'boom'. So I switched all the electrics off and glided back into Manston [in Kent]. It wasn't a pleasant experience."

As for what turned a pilot into an ace, Freeborn said that luck and skill were factors but above all it was practise. "It sounds daft but it was hard to get some blokes to practise," he said. "I used to tell them 'get in the air' but they didn't want to."

Freeborn had seven confirmed kills during the Battle of Britain



MAIN: Dogfights were fraught, fast and confusing, with death often coming from an enemy unseen
BELOW: Freeborn relaxes between skirmishes

"You had to become callous and indifferent to death"



I WAS THERE... THE WAAF PLOTTER

BERYL WATERMAN

The Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) was formed in 1939 to perform vital tasks such as radar operation, decoding and analysing reconnaissance photos. Beryl Waterman joined in 1942 as a teenager and became a plotter, directing RAF fighters against incoming enemy bombers. "I loved plotting," says Waterman. "I had a little switchboard in the operations room and the chief controller, who was looking down on our

plotting table from a window above, might come in and ask me to call the chief controller in London." Waterman plotted attacks for the Mosquito night fighters, which by 1943 were fitted with the Airborne Interception radar. "Although the Mosquitoes had their own radar, we had to guide them to within three miles of the Germans so they could then pick them up on their screen," she explained.



To its fans, the Mosquito was the 'Wooden Wonder'. Others called it the 'Loping Lumberyard'

WAAF women like Beryl worked with code, radar (below) and even as mechanics - but never as combatants



"Although the Mosquitoes had their own radar, we had to guide them to within three miles of the Germans"

< expelled from France. Four hundred of its 650 fighters were lost in the humiliating defeat, one that might have fatally undermined Britain's ability to repel a Nazi invasion but for the efforts of two men.

One of Winston Churchill's first acts on becoming Prime Minister in May 1940 was to establish a Ministry of Aircraft Production, with Lord Beaverbrook at its helm. "The effect of the appointment can only be described as magical," wrote Lord Dowding, commander-in-chief of Fighter Command during the Battle of Britain. Aircraft production increased by nearly three times, and by the end of July the RAF's fighter strength was once more at 650. Beaverbrook even exhorted the public to do their bit by donating every bit of scrap metal to the war effort, or as he memorably phrased it, "turn pots and pans into Spitfires".

Soon a new shortage arose – pilots. German flying schools were producing new crews quicker than the British, and as aircraft losses mounted RAF pilot numbers took a nosedive, plummeting from 1,434 at the start of August to 840 just one month later. Morale began to dip, but then rose when

Winston Churchill, displaying his genius for inspiring speeches, spoke of the heroism of British airmen, referring to them 'the Few'.

Also ingenious was a chain of 18 radar stations erected along the east coast of Britain shortly before the war. These proved invaluable, allowing the RAF to plot the routes of enemy aircraft more than 100 miles away. The plotting was done by the Women's Auxiliary Air Force, or WAAFs, as they became known, whose quick calculations enabled fighter pilots to 'scramble' into the air and ambush the enemy as they crossed the Channel. The WAAFs also crewed sausage-shaped barrage balloons (anchored at heights of up to 5,000 feet by steel cables, with nets hanging beneath to snare low-flying aircraft) while men operated anti-aircraft guns. Both were important strands in the country's defence as the Battle of Britain raged overhead.

The decisive period was the last week of August and the first week of September, when each day the Luftwaffe sent more than 1,000 aircraft across the Channel. The RAF lost 295 Spitfires and Hurricanes fighting them off, while

a further 171 were severely damaged, and 231 pilots were killed or wounded. In the long run, this would have been unsustainable, but the Nazis were about to make a fatal mistake: they switched the focus of their attack from destroying RAF fighters to bombing cities.

BLITZED BRITS

At 5pm on 7 September, 350 Luftwaffe bombers with a 600-strong fighter escort appeared over London. Wing Commander John Hodsoll, a member of London's air raid defence staff, watched them approach from the roof of the War Office in Whitehall. "The spectacle had an almost eerie fascination, which held us spellbound and immobile," he recalled. "It was some time before I could drag myself away and descend into the street."

Some 430 Londoners were killed (and another 1,600 injured) in the opening day of what came to be known as the Blitz. Although other British cities were bombed in the months that followed, notably Coventry, Liverpool and Glasgow, it was London that bore the brunt of the devastation, with 19,826 killed and 72,000 wounded between this first incursion and the last major raid in May 1941.

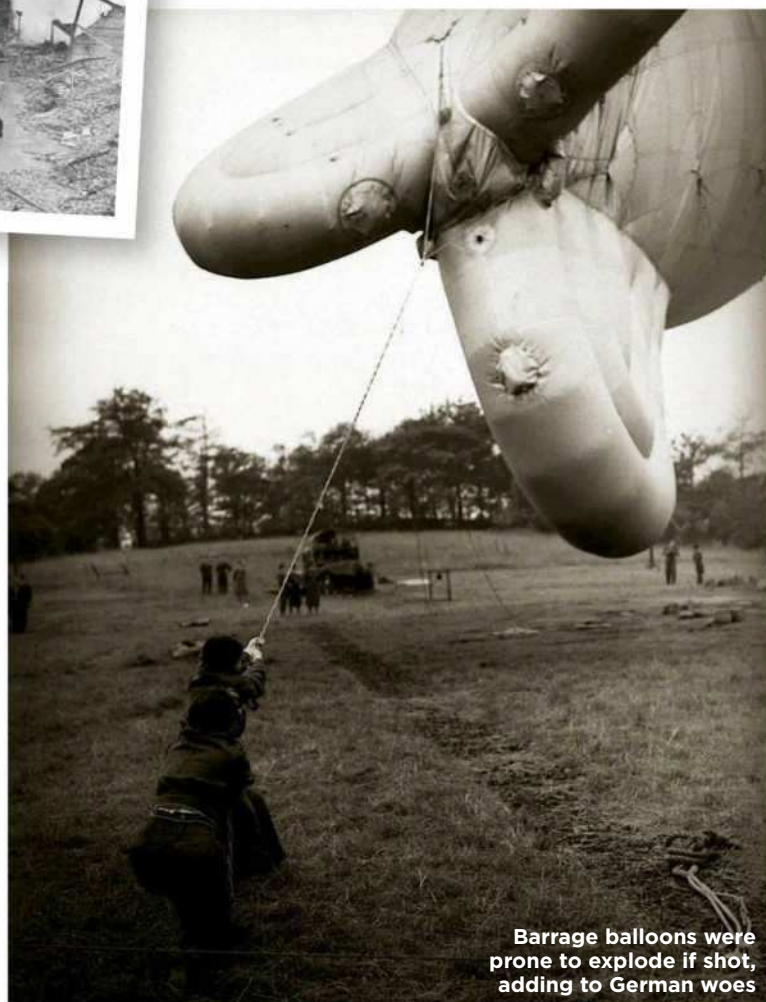
In September 1940, the RAF took stock of a new aircraft, the Beaufighter, specifically designed as a night fighter. With four 20mm



ABOVE: The 'Moonlight Sonata' bombing of Coventry was Hitler's revenge for an RAF attack on Munich
LEFT: Beaverbrook and Churchill led the RAF's revival



There's a persistent rumour that the call for the public to give up their pans was a PR stunt – so people would feel they were 'doing their bit'



Barrage balloons were prone to explode if shot, adding to German woes

BERYL WATERMAN XI, ALAMY XI, GETTY X5

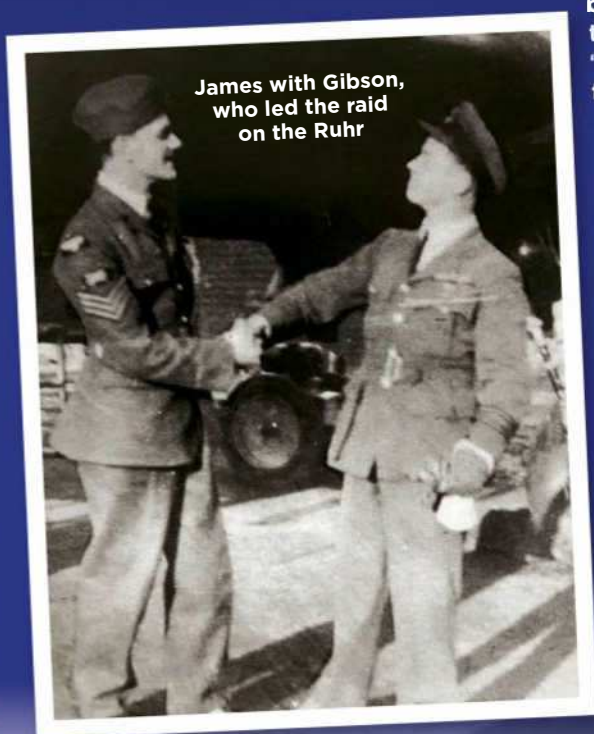
I WAS THERE... THE RADAR OPERATOR

RICHARD JAMES

One of the most innovative RAF aircraft of World War II was the Beaufighter 'night fighter'. It was introduced in autumn 1940 and was equipped with radar, enabling it to pick up enemy bombers in the dark – giving the RAF a crucial advantage over inbound Luftwaffe bombers during the Blitz. Sergeant Richard James was a gunner in No 29 Squadron when the Beaufighters arrived, and he quickly mastered the art of Airborne Interception, as the radar technology was known. The radar box looked like a small television screen and

was suspended from the low roof of the aircraft so that its operator, sitting in a swivel seat, had easy access.

James's pilot was Guy Gibson, later to find fame as a Dambuster, who was regarded as one of the RAF's most promising fliers. "Flying with Gibson was terrific because he was a first-class pilot," recalled James. They shot down their first enemy bomber one evening in May 1941, James guiding Gibson onto the tail of the target using the radar that showed up the aircraft on his screen as a green blip. "If the enemy climbed higher the blip got bigger, so the radar operator told his pilot to climb," said James. "From the blip you could also see if the aircraft was port or starboard."



James with Gibson, who led the raid on the Ruhr

"From the blip you could also see if the aircraft was port or starboard"



Formed in secret, the Dambusters' daring escapade propelled them to instant fame



cannon and six .303-inch machine guns, it packed more punch than either the Spitfire or the Hurricane. But its greatest weapon was its airborne interception radar, a high-powered transmitter and a receiver that allowed the Beaufighter's radar operator to track enemy aircraft in night skies, without the Luftwaffe being able to do the same.

The Luftwaffe, accustomed to dropping their bombs and returning to their bases unmolested, started to suffer heavy losses, their crews alarmed by the way that the RAF could suddenly see in the dark. To conceal their new secret weapon, the British claimed their pilots had such good night vision because they ate so many carrots. It was for this reason too that top Beaufighter ace John Cunningham was christened 'Cats' Eyes'.

"I was given the nickname ... to cover up the fact that we were flying aircraft with radar because there was never any mention of radar at that period," he recalled. "By the time I had two or three successes, the Air Ministry felt that they would have to explain that I had very good vision by night."

RESPITE AND RETALIATION

The Blitz ended with a heavy air raid on London on the night of 10 May 1941 that killed nearly 1,500 people. Britain had endured a horrific ordeal in the preceding nine months, but from then on the Luftwaffe's main focus was the Soviet Union, which the Nazis invaded in June.

Britain had a brief respite. The RAF used the time to study the 'Blitz' strategy – an internal report concluded that German claims of precision bombing were false; only one third of bombers actually reached their target, the majority dropping their bombs indiscriminately because of deficiencies in equipment and technique.

This posed something of a dilemma. At the outbreak of war, Britain had agreed to an appeal from US President Franklin D Roosevelt to

These dark goggles weren't for fashion: bomber crews wore them before major raids (*right*) so their eyes would be used to the dark



undermine civilian support for the war and hasten the demise of the Third Reich. His strategy has been criticised by some post-war historians, but few questioned the morality of thousand-bomber raids at the time, particularly as details began to emerge about the extent of the crimes committed by the Nazis.

Nonetheless, the RAF was keen to take the spotlight off area bombing and portray the service in a more

restrict **air raids** to military targets. But after the Germans had devastated British cities, in the end, the RAF decided to retaliate with a similar strategy. From February 1942, Bomber Command started to target German industrial areas, with three Halifax, Lancaster and Stirling bombers carrying out the bulk of the raids. They were equipped with the latest technology, including the GEE-H radio navigation system and OBOE blind bombing targeting system, which sent signals from radio transmitters on the ground to transponders in the aircraft.

On the night of 30/31 May 1942, the RAF launched the first of three ‘thousand-bomber raids’ on Germany, the mass of aircraft disorientating the German radar defences by flying in a long stream at the same height and on the same route. Cologne was the target, and the city was pummelled in a terrifying ordeal that left 500 dead and the survivors battling 2,500 fires. *The Times* said the raid had ravaged Germany’s “vital centre of heavy industry”, being somewhat economical with the truth in claiming that only industrial targets had been bombed. Essen and Bremen were targeted in the following weeks, and the head of Bomber Command, Arthur Harris, vowed to keep up the attacks “until the heart of Nazi Germany ceases to beat”.

Harris believed that 'area bombing', a euphemism for targeting cities, would

glamorous light. Such an opportunity arose in May 1943, when 19 Lancaster bombers of No 617 Squadron attacked a series of huge dams in Germany with the purpose of disrupting the Ruhr's vital water supplies. Led by Guy Gibson, the RAF raiders used a revolutionary 'bouncing bomb', and were subsequently immortalised in the 1955 film *The Dambusters*.

BEYOND THE BOMBS

The RAF contributed to winning the war in myriad other ways, not just in Europe but in the Far East, where the work of bomber and fighter aircraft was complemented by transport planes dropping supplies to soldiers fighting the Japanese in Burma. The small and agile Westland Lysander aircraft ferried secret agents to occupied Europe, Coastal Command hunted U-boats and protected Allied shipping in the Atlantic and the Mediterranean, and on D-Day the RAF dropped paratroopers into France.

But it was Bomber Command that suffered most. Of every 100 men who enlisted, 45 were killed, six were wounded and eight were taken prisoner. During the war, 55,573 men of Bomber Command lost their lives.

Donald Garland had been one of the first to die when he was shot down attacking the Veldwezelt bridge. Two years later, his brother Desmond, also of Bomber Command, was

The inter-war Royal Air Force

The RAF was established on 1 April 1918 through the amalgamation of the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service, seven months prior to the end of World War I. With the armistice came demands from the army and the navy for the disbandment of the newest service. Surely, they argued, peace had no need for an air force and the money they guzzled would be better invested in ships and soldiers? Fortunately, the RAF had two powerful men fighting its corner: Hugh Trenchard, Chief of the Air Staff, and Winston Churchill, the newly appointed Minister for War. Their efforts ensured the RAF survived, but nonetheless cost cutting meant that by the 1920s the numbers of planes and personnel were inadequate. The emergence of aggressive leaders in Italy, Japan and Germany changed the approach of the British government, and in 1934 it launched a £20m development programme to increase squadron numbers and to build powerful new fighter and bomber aircraft.

The first RAF squadron began as a balloon unit, not as fighter pilots



killed while serving in No 50 Squadron and then, as if to emphasise the perilous nature of all branches of the RAF, a third brother, John, was killed in a flying accident in 1943. That left just Patrick, the eldest, who by the end of 1944 was flying the newest version of the Spitfire, the XIV. Perhaps he was still unfamiliar with the aircraft as he approached his Dutch airbase after a reconnaissance sortie on New Year's Day 1945. The landing was bumpy and suddenly the Spitfire stalled, flipping over and killing Patrick – the last of four brothers to die who collectively personified the courage of the Royal Air Force. 🍅

GET HOOKED

EXPERIENCE

The RAF marks its centenary on 1 April 2018, and there are events being held across the UK. Visit www.raf.mod.uk/raf100/whats-on to find one near you

The A-Z of ROYAL BIRTHS

From lie ins to push presents – **Lottie Goldfinch** embraces the fever of another British royal birth by exploring the myths and rituals linked to pregnancy in monarchies

A... is for AUDIENCE



Queens of the past gave birth in front of dozens of people, including royal officials and servants to ensure that there was no scandal around the delivery. In 1778, Marie Antoinette did so in front of an audience of up to 200. According to her chambermaid: "When the obstetrician said aloud, 'The Queen is going to give birth!' the persons who poured into the chamber were so numerous that the rush nearly killed the Queen." Two chimney sweeps, the chambermaid adds, "climbed upon the furniture for a better sight".

B... is for BIRTH TRAY

In 14th-century Italy, to celebrate a successful birth, new mothers were often given elaborately painted 'birth trays' (*desco da parto*), decorated with religious, mythological or literary themes. After giving birth, the exhausted mother would

Birth trays bring a whole new meaning to 'sentimental value'



be presented with the tray, which was covered with a protective cloth and laden with nourishing food and sometimes small gifts. The trays – many of which were specially commissioned – could then be hung on the wall as a piece of treasured art and in celebration of a healthy birth. Florentine ruler Lorenzo de Medici kept his, illustrated with the 'Triumph of Fame', in his private quarters until his death.

C... is for CRAVINGS

Expectant mothers are known for their strange food cravings, but for a royal mum-to-be, the world was your oyster when it came to obtaining your heart – or stomach's – desire. Jane Seymour, Henry VIII's third wife, apparently developed a craving for quail meat whilst pregnant with the future Edward VI. Anxious to keep his expectant wife happy, a devoted Henry shipped the delicacy from Calais to fulfil her demands.



Fancy some quail? In Tudor times only the nobility could afford such luxuriant fare

D... is for DAUGHTERS

When Anne Boleyn gave birth to the future Elizabeth I in 1533, Henry VIII was so convinced that the baby would be a boy that he organised a celebratory tournament and joust, and had a letter announcing the birth of a prince drawn up. When news broke that the baby was another girl, the celebrations were cancelled and 'ss' hastily added to the word 'prince'.

Elizabeth proved to be every bit the 'son' Henry wanted so much



E... is for **ELTHAM PALACE**



Between the 14th and 16th centuries, Eltham Palace in Kent was traditionally used to raise royal children, with

Edward III and Henry VIII spending much of their childhoods and youths there. The palace became a favourite royal residence during this period, with Henry IV spending ten out of the 13 Christmases of his reign under its roof.

F... is for **FORCEPS**

The Chamberlen brothers, Peter the Elder and Peter the Younger, are credited with instigating forceps-assisted deliveries in the 16th century. But the instrument was initially kept secret, carried from birth to birth in a gilded chest and only used on blindfolded women. Forceps eventually became widespread but many midwives remained opposed to their use, including Sir Richard Croft, obstetrician to Princess Charlotte, daughter of George IV. In November 1817, Charlotte endured a 50-hour labour, giving birth to a stillborn son and losing her own life five and half hours later from postpartum haemorrhage and shock. Croft was widely criticised for not using forceps during the difficult delivery.



Prior to forceps, stuck babies had to be crushed to be freed from the womb

G... is for **GIFTS**



Today's so-called 'push presents', which see fathers rewarding their partners with gifts after they have given birth, are actually not such a modern phenomenon. When Napoleon's second wife Marie Louise gave birth to a son, the emperor allegedly presented her with a necklace embellished with dozens of diamonds. Edward IV, too, was reportedly delighted at the birth of his first child, despite it being a baby girl, and sent his wife Elizabeth Woodville a jewelled ornament.

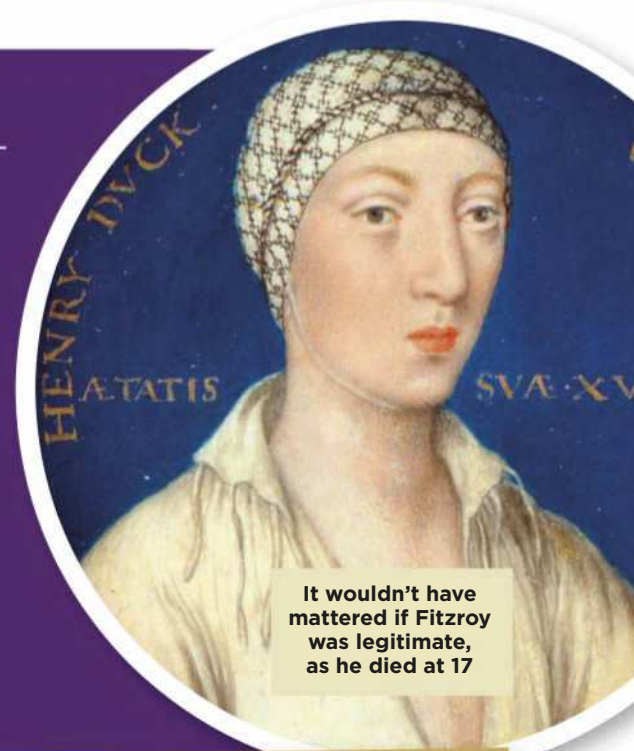
H... is for **HOLY GIRDLE**



Giving birth was a dangerous undertaking during the medieval period, and the process was embedded in ritual as a way of protecting both mother and infant. Birth girdles

I... is for **ILLEGITIMACY**

Throughout history, kings have produced illegitimate children: George III's 15 children produced 56 illegitimate offspring between them. But being illegitimate did not always mean living in shame. Henry VIII was so enamoured with his illegitimate son, born to his mistress Bessie Blount in 1519, that he named him Henry Fitzroy and made him Duke of Richmond and Somerset. Fitzroy was the only one of Henry's illegitimate children that he ever formally acknowledged.



It wouldn't have mattered if Fitzroy was legitimate, as he died at 17

"ILLEGITIMACY DID NOT ALWAYS MEAN LIVING IN SHAME"

bearing charms and prayers were common across all social levels,

but only royal mothers could access the most holy of these – the girdle of the Virgin, held at St Peter's Westminster, and the girdle of St Ailred at Rievaulx Abbey. In 1242, the Westminster girdle was sent to Henry III's wife Eleanor in preparation for the birth of their daughter, Beatrice. Supposedly blessed by the Virgin Mary, the relic was thought to reduce pain in childbirth and strengthen contractions if needed.

J... is for **JAMES EDWARD FRANCIS STUART**



One bizarre royal birth story is that of James Edward Francis Stuart, son of James II and VII and his second wife, the Italian Catholic princess Mary Beatrice of Modena. Many hoped the crown would pass to James's existing Protestant daughter, Mary, born of his first marriage, but in 1688 Mary Beatrice crushed these hopes when she gave birth to a healthy Catholic son. Terrified that the new arrival would mean the imposition of Catholicism on England and Scotland, the King's enemies set about spreading a rumour that the prince had been stillborn and replaced with a newborn from another mother – slipped into Mary Beatrice's bed in a warming pan.

K... is for **'KEEP OUT'**

For centuries, delivery rooms were female-only areas, and even in the 19th and early 20th centuries it was unusual for fathers to be present for the birth of their children. Prince Albert, consort to Queen Victoria, was an exception – he is said to have been present when several of his children came into the world. "There could be no kinder, wiser, nor more judicious nurse," Victoria later wrote of her husband.



Victoria doted on Albert as he did on her, entering endless mourning after his death



If the labour was long, lying in was a pampered prison

L... is for **LYING IN**

Royal and noble women in the medieval period would close themselves off from the world for a period of time before giving birth – a process known as ‘lying in’. The birthing chamber was created as a type of ‘second womb’, designed to give the new baby as peaceful an entry to the world as possible. Fires were lit, windows were shut up and covered with calming tapestries – regardless of the weather – and religious items were scattered around to give spiritual reassurance. Light was believed to harm an expectant mother’s eyes, so the room was dim and quiet. There she would stay until the baby was born.

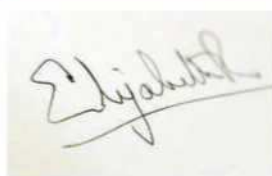
M... is for **MALE MIDWIVES**



Before the 18th century, childbirth was an all-female affair, but the 1700s saw an obstetric revolution and the emergence of man-midwives, fashionably

known as *accoucheurs*. Men charged a higher fee than women, so to have a man present at the birth was indicative of a family’s wealth, while developments in medical technology were also widely considered to be ‘men’s business’. By 1764, the royal family had allowed men into the birth chamber, with William Hunter appointed royal obstetrician to Queen Charlotte.

N... is for **NAMES**



Choosing a baby’s name is never easy, but choosing the name of a royal baby is fraught with potential pitfalls.

Tradition has seen the re-use of many royal names – Elizabeth, George, Henry – but some names are avoided for luck or poor comparisons. The legacy of ‘Bad’ King John

“HATSHEPSUT WENT ON TO CO-RULE EGYPT WITH HER STEPSON”

is hard to escape, while Cromwell’s overthrow of the monarchy in the 17th century makes Oliver an unlikely choice for a future royal heir.

O... is for **ON THE RUN**



In 1737, Princess Augusta Frederica (daughter of Frederick, Prince of Wales, and Augusta of Saxe-

Gotha-Altenburg) was very nearly born in a carriage. Frederick had forced his wife to travel from Hampton Court Palace to St James’s Palace whilst in labour in a bid to prevent his parents, George II and Queen Caroline, from attending the birth. The royal household at St James’s was completely unprepared for their arrival and Augusta was forced to give birth on a tablecloth, since no sheets could be found.

P... is for **PAIN**

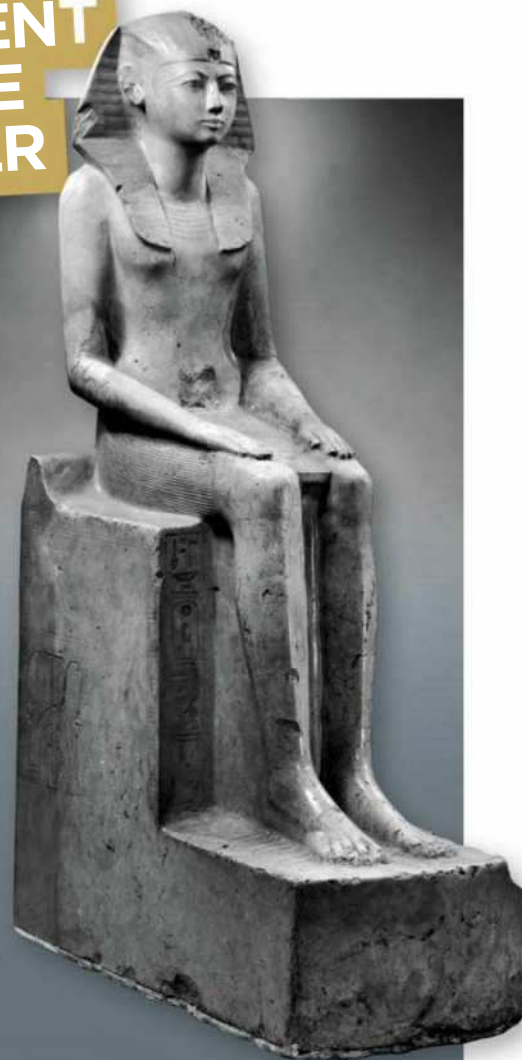


According to Christian tradition, pain during childbirth was a punishment from God for Eve’s sins in the Garden of Eden, but by the mid-19th century attitudes had changed and labour pain was no longer considered something that had to be endured. In 1847, chloroform was found to be a particularly effective anaesthetic: six years later, Queen Victoria used it during the birth of her eighth child, Prince Leopold. “That blessed chloroform,” she wrote later. “The effect was soothing, quieting and delightful beyond measure...”

Q... is for **QUEEN**



The English (and later, British) monarchy has seen just six ‘official’ queens regnant in its long history. Male-preference primogeniture, which sees a woman accede the throne only if she has no living brothers or surviving legitimate descendants of deceased brothers, was practised in England from the Norman Conquest in 1066 until 2013, when the Succession to the Crown Act was passed. Now, royal sons no longer take precedence over their female siblings.



R... is for **REGENT**

Occasionally, royal babies were crowned before they could even walk. Shang of Han became emperor of China when he was barely 100 days old, while Mary, Queen of Scots, became queen at just six days old. In such cases a regent ruled until the tiny monarch came of age. Some regents, however, were reluctant to relinquish power when the handover came. Hatshepsut, fifth pharaoh of the Eighteenth Dynasty of Egypt, acted as regent for her infant stepson Thutmose III after her husband’s death in c1479 BC. But by the time Thutmose was seven, Hatshepsut had been crowned and went on to co-rule Egypt with her stepson.

S... is for **SHAPUR II**



The only person believed to have been crowned before birth is Shapur II, the tenth Shahanshah of the Sasanian Empire. It is said that, after the death of his elder brother Adur Narseh in 309 AD, the crown was placed on the stomach of their father’s pregnant widow, so that Shapur II would be born a king.

T... is for TWINS



If twin heirs were born, the same rules of primogeniture would apply to them as to an older and younger sibling. Even if older only by minutes, the elder twin would inherit the throne. This has yet to happen in England, but Scotland has seen royal twins: James II of Scotland (born 1430) had an older twin brother, Alexander, who died before his first birthday.

U... is for URINE

Determining a pregnancy was difficult before the advent of accurate testing, and some women didn't know they were expecting until they first felt the baby move – a 'quickening'. In Tudor times, urine that was coloured between pale yellow and white, with a cloudy surface, was thought to possibly indicate pregnancy. Other tests involved leaving a needle in a woman's urine to see if it rusted, or observing what happened if you mixed wine with urine.



Holding urine up to the light did little to enhance the adequacy of this test

V... is for VICTORIA



Few monarchs were as vocal of their dislike of babies as Queen Victoria. Despite producing nine healthy children, Victoria hated pregnancy, and newborns, stating: "An ugly baby is a very nasty object. The prettiest are frightful when undressed ... as long as they have their big body and little limbs and that terrible frog-like action." Although she reportedly enjoyed an active sex life with Albert, Victoria regarded children as an unwelcome byproduct – the "shadow side" of marriage.

W... is for WET NURSE



Typically, royal mothers did not breastfeed their children, instead hiring a wet nurse to feed their offspring.

Breastfeeding was generally viewed with distaste, but on a practical level, it acted as a form of contraception – for a queen, whose job it was to provide more heirs, breastfeeding simply wasn't a practical option if she wished to conceive again quickly. It was also believed that breast milk would curdle if marital relations were resumed before weaning, and that colostrum was harmful to a child.

Wet nurses often developed close relationships with their charges, particularly as children were generally breastfed for longer than they are today – boys often up to the age of two. Breastfeeding a royal baby could be a lucrative business. Henry VIII's wet nurse, Anne Oxenbridge, received £10 a year for her duties, more than £5,000 in today's money. The Egyptian pharaoh Tutankhamun loved his wet nurse, Maia, so much that he built her an elaborate tomb after her death.

Kings had no need to know the words to Rock a bye baby



X... is for XIA DYNASTY

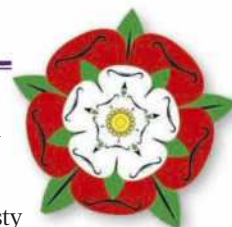
Some royal births are not only shrouded in mystery, but are even mythical. The birth of Yu the Great, founder of the Xia Dynasty, in c2200 BC is one of China's most famous legends. One version tells of a man named Gun, who stole a piece of magic soil from heaven to dam a great deluge of water. Apparently angered by the theft, the Lord on High – Shangdi – ordered Gun's execution. Three years later, Gun's body was slit open and a son brought forth – that son, legend has it, was Yu the Great. Yu went on to introduce flood control in China as well as inaugurate dynastic rule in the country.



Yu was later praised as a 'sage king', a paragon of virtue and morality

Y... is for YORK

When the houses of York and Lancaster were joined through the marriage of Henry VII and Elizabeth of York in 1486, founding a strong Tudor dynasty was of paramount importance. And no one was more convinced of this than Henry's mother, the formidable Margaret Beaufort. When Margaret heard the news that Elizabeth was expecting her first child, she produced a set of royal ordinances laying down precise and detailed rules for the royal birth. Almost every detail was set out in writing – from decoration of the birthing chamber and the colour and fabric of its cushions, to the furnishings of the royal nursery!



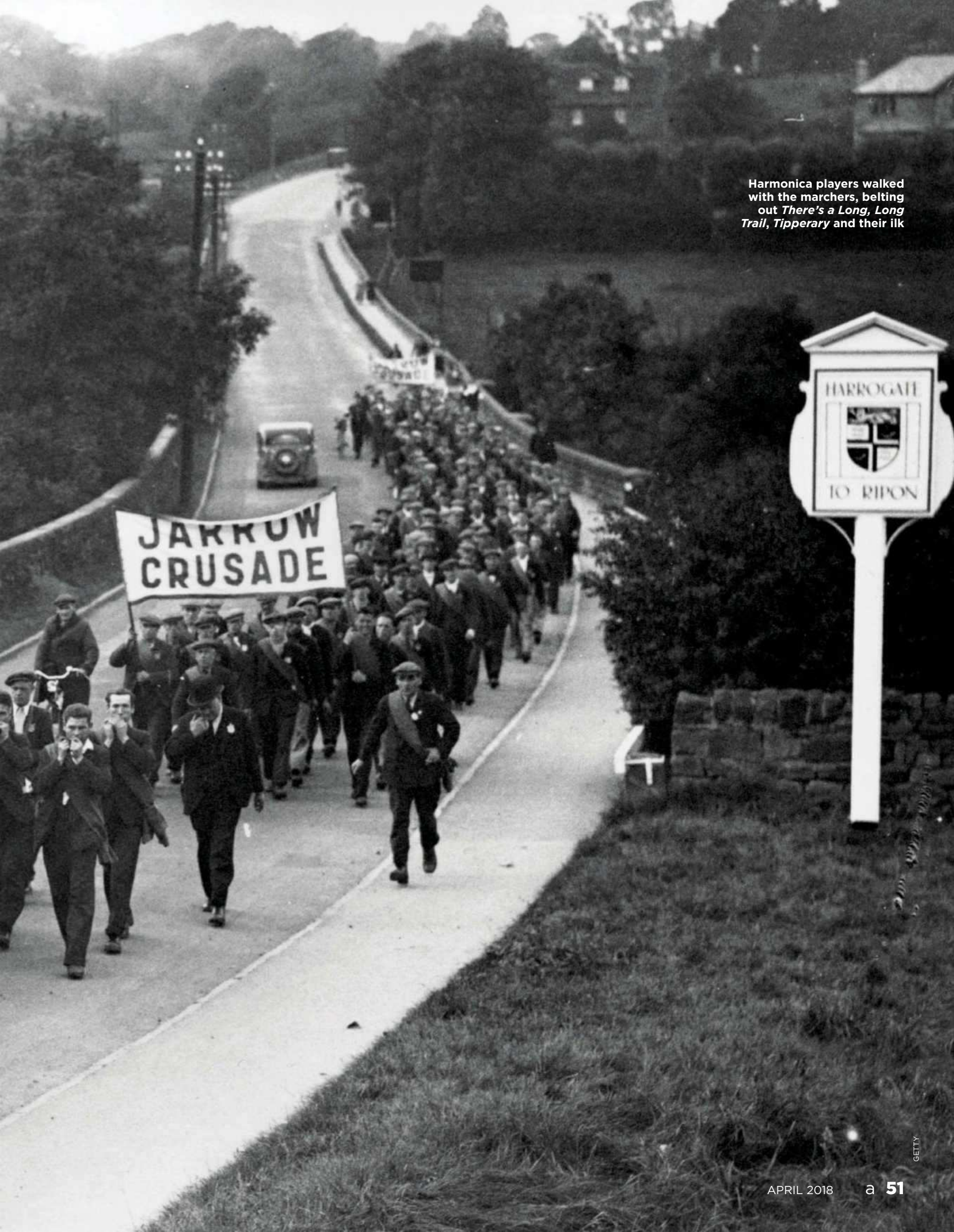
Z... is for ZZZs

It goes without saying that royal parents weren't expected to tend to their children at night, and the royal nursery boasted a host of servants tasked with seeing to the needs of their young charges. Safely tucked in one of his two cradles – one of which was covered with crimson cloth of gold – the baby Henry VIII was rocked to sleep by two official 'rockers of the royal cradle'. The women, Frideswide Puttenham and Margaret Draughton, were paid salaries of £3, 8s and 8d a year each for sending the young prince off to the land of nod.

THE MARCH TO SAVE JARROW

Do you hear the people sing? British politicians didn't at the time, and yet, writes **Stuart Maconie**, the lasting legacy of the 1936 Jarrow 'crusade' can still be felt to this day





Harmonica players walked with the marchers, belting out *There's a Long, Long Trail, Tipperary* and their ilk

There are certain British place names that carry an enduring weight of meaning; a deep and sonorous ring, and not always a pleasant one. Hillsborough, Orgreave, Aberfan, Armagh... these are all places that have become synonymous with some great and profound emotion or event, woven into history through accident, struggle, tragedy, wickedness or bravery. Jarrow is another. In 1936, this industrial town in the northeast of England became, in the words of its MP, “the most famous town in England”; a byword for hardship and misery, but also for defiance, fortitude and dignity.

Jarrow's MP was Ellen Wilkinson, better known as ‘Red’ Ellen, a brilliant and passionate firebrand who later became a pillar of Clement Attlee's post-war Labour administration as Minister for Education. But much of her lasting fame rests on her movements in October 1936, when she led 200 of Jarrow's unemployed men 300 miles to London. The intention was to publicise Jarrow's plight and to deliver a petition of 10,000 signatures to Conservative Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin, pleading for help for their dying town

in the form of a steelworks, or a similar shot in the arm. Baldwin refused to see them; the petition was taken from them by the Special Branch and then it vanished, and the aid the town needed was never properly given.

But the Jarrow ‘crusade’ lives on as a remarkable, romantic, contentious piece of our social history. In Matt Perry's excellent, definitive historical account *The Jarrow Crusade: Protest And Legend*, he cites some of its varied legacy: “Five plays, two musicals, an opera, three pop songs, two folk songs, several paintings and poems, a short story, performance art, a mural, two sculptures, glassware, four television documentaries, four radio programmes, a children's story, a cuddly toy, a real ale, a public house, an election poster, street names, innumerable pieces of journalism and historical references and of course hundreds of often reproduced photographs.”

This list is probably not exhaustive, and to it I would add several exhibitions and thousands of citations in pop culture. It remains a central module of the GCSE syllabus and the Learn English Network. Jarrow may not always be remembered accurately – many think that it was a miners' protest and

explicitly sought to bring down the government. It was neither, but the name and the story have echoed down the decades since.

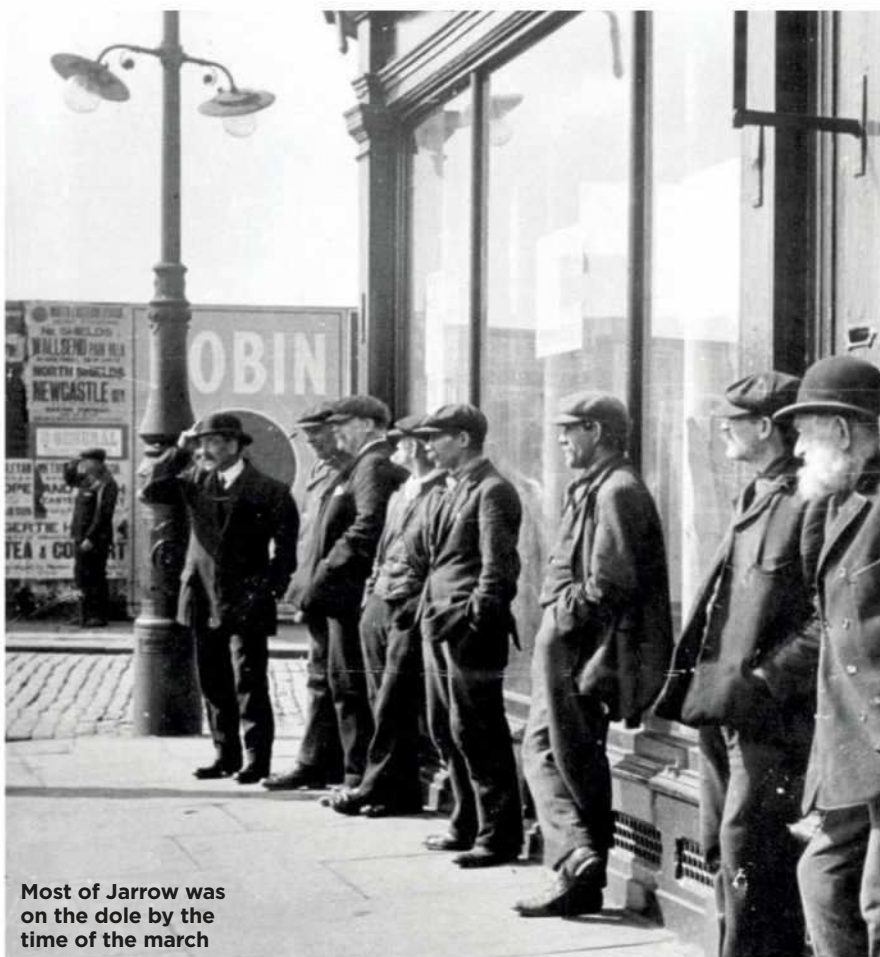
A SINKING SHIP

Between 1851 and 1934, Jarrow was a centre for shipbuilding, and the town's economy depended almost entirely on the yard of the “vain and vigorous” shipping magnate Sir Charles Mark Palmer.

Unlike the paternalistic entrepreneurs of other ‘company towns’, Palmer was no Titus Salt, George Cadbury or Lord Lever. He gave his town little in the way of concert halls or public baths, nurseries, libraries or clinics. In her famous account of Jarrow's fortunes called *The Town That Was Murdered*, Wilkinson wrote: “There is a prevailing blackness about the neighbourhood. The houses are black, the ships are black, the sky is black, and if you go there for an hour or two, reader, you will be black ... Sir Charles Palmer regarded it as no part of his duty to see that the conditions under which his workers had to live were either sanitary or tolerable.”

Life was hard in Palmer's Jarrow, but in 1934 it became appreciably worse.

“It is the symptom of a national evil,” wrote Red Ellen of Jarrow's plight



Most of Jarrow was on the dole by the time of the march



Once one of Britain's boom industries, the Great Depression precipitated the collapse of shipbuilding across the isles



“THE HOUSES ARE BLACK, THE SHIPS ARE BLACK, THE SKY IS BLACK”

ELLEN WILKINSON MP

Befitting a crusade, the march began with a hymn and a blessing

With profits suffering from cheaper foreign competition and without any government protection, the bottom fell out of Jarrow's shipping economy and Palmer's yard closed. The town was plunged into an economic abyss. Eight out of every ten men became jobless. Child mortality rates soared to twice the national average. Houses were overcrowded and infested with vermin.

To the misery of unemployment was added the humiliation and degradation of the means test, an invasive inquisition intended to determine whether the unemployed deserved any benefit. Mothers were checked to see if they breastfed their babies; if they did, their meagre benefit was cut. If one member of a family worked, the others would receive less. Thus families were forced to split up to avoid starvation. When JB Priestley visited Jarrow three years prior to the march, he saw a town ruined and a vision of urban hell on Earth.

“Wherever we went men were hanging about, not scores of them but hundreds and thousands of them,” he wrote in his 1934 travelogue *English Journey*. “The whole town looked as if it had entered a perpetual penniless bleak Sabbath. The men wore the masks of prisoners of war. A stranger from a distant civilisation, observing the condition of the place and its people would have arrived at once at the conclusion that Jarrow had deeply offended some celestial emperor of the island and was now being punished. He would never believe us if we told him that in theory this town was as good as any other and that its inhabitants were not criminals but citizens with votes.”

ON THEIR OWN

The town attempted to fight back. When a delegation of Jarrow workers met with head of the Board of Trade, Walter Runciman his response to their requests for aid was that “Jarrow must work out

its own salvation”, a remark described by historian Ronald Blyth as “the last straw in official cruelty”.

Runciman's chilly indifference and callous response “kindled the town”, according to Wilkinson. In July 1936, a packed public meeting agreed that the town should ask again for government help in the form of a new steelworks, but this time the appeal should be backed up by a petition. Signatures should be collected from Jarrow and beyond. When the meeting was debating what to do after this, an unknown voice in the crowded public gallery shouted: “Let's march down with it.” Within days, plans were afoot to do just that.

The march was planned with military precision and in military style, which was appropriate since many of the men were veterans of World War I, and even the Boer War in one case. They would march in step, parade-ground style, to the beat of a drum and a harmonica



The townsfolk did not want charity, only the opportunity to work



Each man was issued two penny stamps a week to write home



Jarrow was told to pull itself up by its bootstraps



"I AM PERFECTLY SERIOUS. WE SHOULD GO DOWN THERE WITH BOMBS IN OUR POCKETS"

JARROW COUNCILLOR ISAAC DODDS

the march began, so he left a note on the mantelpiece saying he'd set off for London and would see her in a month.

Most of the town turned out to see the men off and support was almost total, with a few minor dissenting voices. Councillor Isaac Dodds remarked: "I am not so ready as I was to support an ordinary march to London. I am willing enough to march, God knows, and there was a time when I would have suggested that we put the women and children on buses while the men of the town marched with the council at their head. But now I think we should get down to London with a couple of bombs in our pockets. Oh Christ, yes, I am perfectly serious. We should go down there with bombs in our pockets. These people of Westminster have no use for us anyway. These people do not realise that there are people living in Jarrow today under

conditions which a respectable farmer would not keep swine. Do not put any limits on your demonstration. Get down there. And I think we should go to the absolute extreme."

March marshal David Riley was more conciliatory. He and the organising committee in general were wary of Jarrow's endeavour being known as a hunger march and preferred to call it a crusade, a rather emotive and pious self-naming that intended to emphasise the saintly, admirable nature of the Jarrow men's efforts, and disassociate them from the other hunger marches of the day, which were more expressly political.

It was his idea to have the 'crusade' start from a church, to have it blessed by the town's religious leaders and to give it that name. "At the time there was quite a number of [hunger] marches being held all over the country and they

band. There would be no drinking or rowdiness. Two medical students would accompany the marchers to monitor their health.

Some 1,000 men applied to go on the march. Two hundred were chosen but, by the time of departure from Christ Church in Jarrow on 5 October, seven had dropped out – most because of ill health or family pressure, though one fortunate chap did so because he had found a job. Substitutes were ushered in quickly, though, including Billy Beattie: his wife was out when



Wilkinson joined the marchers whenever her schedule allowed

weren't being too well received in many places," he later wrote.

Despite this emollience, the march found little support from its own kind. The Labour Party, led by the ineffectual and timid Ramsay MacDonald, washed its hands of the march, panicky about possible infiltration by communists and desperately keen to be seen as moderate. The Trades Union Council actually issued a circular denouncing it.

The public response along the march's 300-mile route was far better, growing warmer as the days went by and news of it spread. This was helped by a generally supportive press – encouraged by some very savvy dealings by the organisers, who set up a four-person 'press group' to liaise with local and national papers. Two Fleet Street journalists were 'embedded' within the march. And, in the same week that the crusade began, the BBC started its TV service from Alexandra Palace. Though little in the way of footage survives, the fact that the corporation and the Jarrow march's 'origin stories' were so closely connected may explain why the BBC has given it extensive and sympathetic coverage in scores of documentaries and dramas.

HUNGER MARCHES

The 'hunger march' was primarily a protest phenomenon of the early 20th century. The term was first used to describe an event of 1905, but they became more popular and visible with the growing hardship of the 1920s and 1930s. Unemployed men and women would (usually) walk en masse from their home city to London, to protest and publicise their condition, and to ask for government aid. Many of these marches were organised by the Communist Party of Great Britain and were much more radically minded than the Jarrow march, which deliberately rejected the 'hunger' tag.

1905 RAUNDS TO LONDON

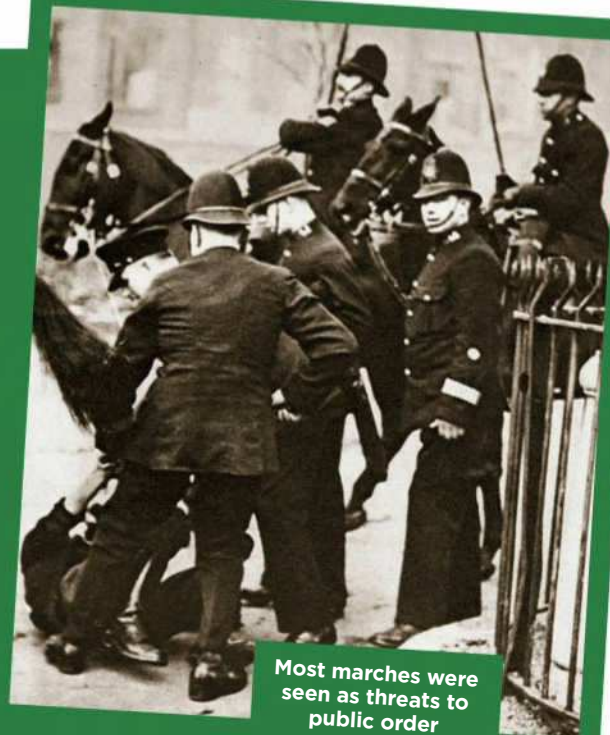
The first hunger march: 115 unemployed army bootmakers from the Northamptonshire village of Raunds walked to London to protest at War Office complaisance in the undercutting of wages. The marchers, led by James 'General' Gribble, interrupted a speech on women's suffrage and were ejected from the Houses of Parliament. They were given a heroes' welcome by 5,000 of their townsfolk on their return, though.

1927 RHONDDA VALLEY TO LONDON

At a demonstration that became known as 'Red Sunday in Rhondda Valley', AJ Cook called for a march to protest about dire conditions after the General Strike. Miners from all over South Wales made up the 270-strong contingent, which enjoyed popular support, although the TUC, the press and the government were hostile, and women who knocked doors in the Rhondda to collect for the march were arrested. The marchers won some concessions over cuts in benefits.

1932 NATIONAL HUNGER MARCH

The Communist Party-led National Unemployed Workers Movement (NUWM)



Most marches were seen as threats to public order

was behind many of the hunger marches of the 1920s and 1930s. The 3,000 marchers, who came from the most economically depressed regions of Scotland, northern England and the Welsh Valleys, were met by a crowd of 100,000 on arrival at Hyde Park. The government mustered 70,000 policemen, who used force to stop the marchers' petition reaching parliament. Serious violence ensued.

1936 BLIND HUNGER MARCH

The National League of the Blind had pioneered protest marches in the years after World War I, and though less well remembered than the Jarrow crusade, its 1936 march was an important stage in the fight for disability rights in Britain. A contingent of blind people led by GA Costance from Swansea trekked to a rally in Hyde Park, where they met blind marchers from other parts of the country, including Leeds and Manchester.



Unemployed miners marched in 1927 with less fanfare, but greater success

After a fairly cool greeting on their first night in Chester Le Street, they were welcomed more effusively in Ferryhill with cherry cake and an impromptu dance. By Leeds, they were met by a full-scale civic reception in the town hall (here, as in many other towns, it was Conservative councils who were most welcoming, perhaps to embarrass the indifferent Labour officialdom).

In Leicester, the city's cobblers worked through the night to mend the marchers' boots. In Nottingham, they were given 200 pairs of clean underwear. Only occasionally, as in Market Harborough, did they meet with apathy or suspicion.


The men slept in drill halls and old workhouses, dined on beef paste sandwiches and broth cooked up in roadside tureens by their two cooks (one of whom, Cuddy Miles, was the grandfather of 1970s pop hit-maker John Miles). Along the way, several marchers dropped out due to ill health (one went back to Jarrow to have all his teeth taken out), but in the main spirits were high for the three week journey, kept buoyant by roadside well-wishers and

whip-rounds, uniformly warm press coverage and the cheery rasp of their harmonica band.

A PLEA ON DEAF EARS

They reached Marble Arch in drenching rain on 31 October 1936, tailed by the Special Branch. Prime Minister Baldwin refused to see them and the petition was hurriedly taken at the House of Commons. It's never been seen since and no-one knows where it is, or if it still exists.

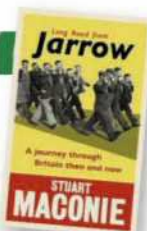
There was just enough money in the coffers to buy each man a cheap suit to replace his worn clothes and a train ticket back to Newcastle. Though homesick for their wives and children and friends, it was not a prospect that they fully relished. For the three weeks of the march they had known purpose and camaraderie. They had also eaten better than they had in years, even on a diet largely of 'bummies' and soup; most had put on weight. In Jarrow, all that awaited were long days of boredom and poverty.

No new steelworks was ever built in Jarrow. A pipe plant opened a year later, dreamed up primarily as a face-saving ruse by Runciman, but it employed only 200 men and then only briefly. The last surviving marcher to have walked the entire route, Con Whalen, who died in 2003, gave his verdict. "It was a waste of time ... but I enjoyed every step." 

GET HOOKED

READ

Stuart Maconie retraces the route of the 200 marchers in *Long Road from Jarrow: A Journey Through Britain Then and Now* (Ebury Press, 2017)



Labour regularly raised Jarrow's spectre ahead of elections

JARROW'S LONG TAIL

One marcher believed it had made "not a ha'porth of difference" to the town's fortunes or its people, but the Jarrow crusade may well have affected the course and tide of history in subtle and pervasive ways that are not obvious from immediate results.

Many think that the constant and largely supportive publicity for the Jarrow march, the effort and endurance of the men, and the focus on the plight of the town and conditions in industrial Britain, shaped new public attitudes into a desire for change. This national mood led to the Labour landslide of 1945 and thus to the setting up of the welfare state and the NHS, secular sacraments of modern Britain that are still part of our self-image and identity and still debated and fought over by modern governments.



It is said that one man picked the ham from his sandwich to send back to his family



Scenes like this were common in what some called the 'Devil's Decade'

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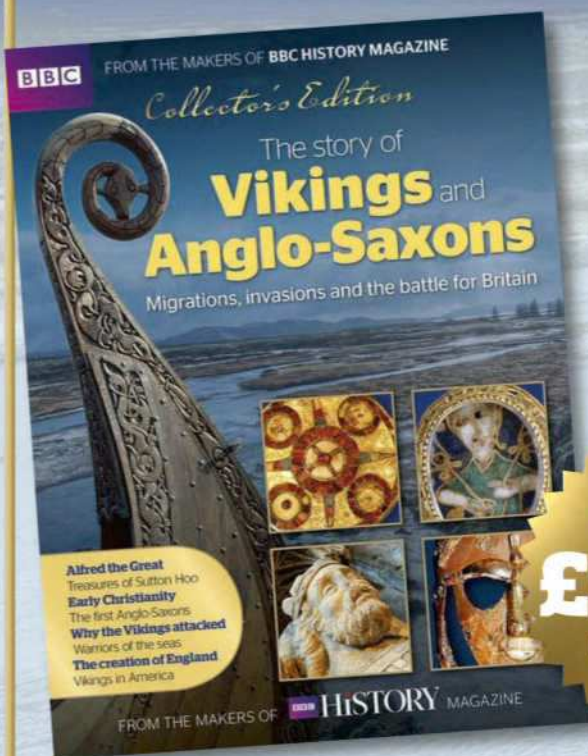
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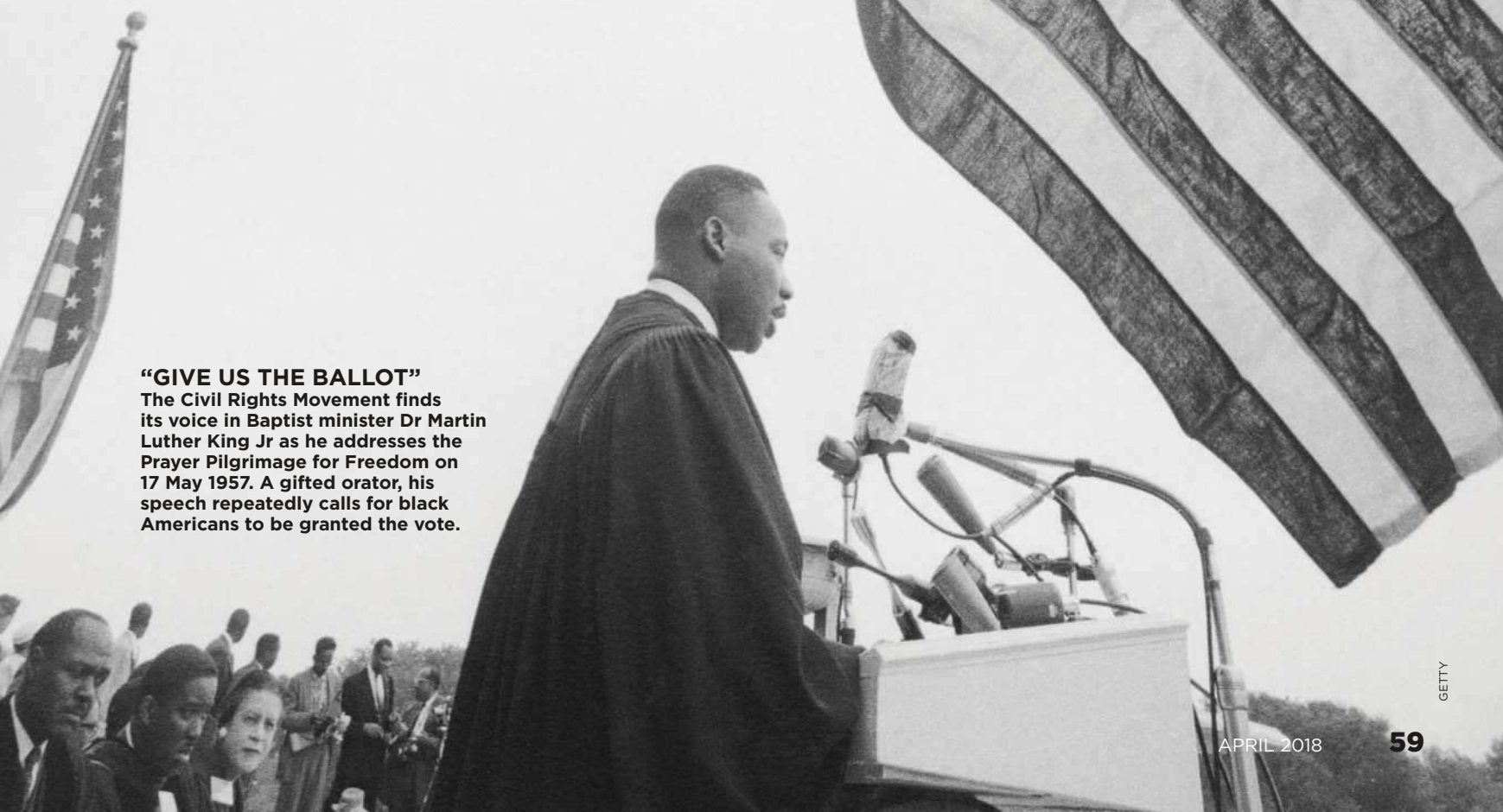
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THE MAN WITH A DREAM MARTIN LUTHER KING

Fifty years after King's assassination, the dream of the civil rights giant and his mesmeric speeches remain as relevant as ever

"GIVE US THE BALLOT"

The Civil Rights Movement finds its voice in Baptist minister Dr Martin Luther King Jr as he addresses the Prayer Pilgrimage for Freedom on 17 May 1957. A gifted orator, his speech repeatedly calls for black Americans to be granted the vote.





© Estate of James Karales, Courtesy of Howard Greenberg Gallery, New York.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

King struggles to answer the eldest of his four children, Yolanda, who has asked why she can't go to Funtown, a whites-only amusement park. He later describes this moment as "one of the most painful experiences I have ever faced".



**"THE TIME IS
ALWAYS RIGHT TO DO
WHAT IS RIGHT"**

MARTIN LUTHER KING

BIRMINGHAM JAIL

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference is formed to achieve equality through non-violence. During the 1963 protests in Birmingham, Alabama - one of the US's most divided cities, where photos of police brutality shock the nation - King and co-founder Ralph Abernathy are led away while leading a demonstration. From his jail cell, King pens a landmark letter defending the SCLC's philosophy: "The purpose of our direct action programme is to create a situation so crisis-packed that it will inevitably open the door to negotiation."

RISE OF A CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER

How King learned to stand up to racism and oppression through peace and love



A GIFTED STUDENT

Born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia, King earned a place at the historically black Morehouse College in 1944, aged 15. He is seen third from left during an assembly in 1948, the year he graduated – instilled with a commitment to fight racial inequality yet inspired by Gandhi's teachings of non-violence.



INTO THE CHURCH

While at Morehouse, King decides to enter the ministry (like his father). By 1955, the 25-year-old has received his PhD, married Coretta Scott and is pastor of a church in Montgomery, Alabama. He quickly builds a reputation for his sermons and work in the community.

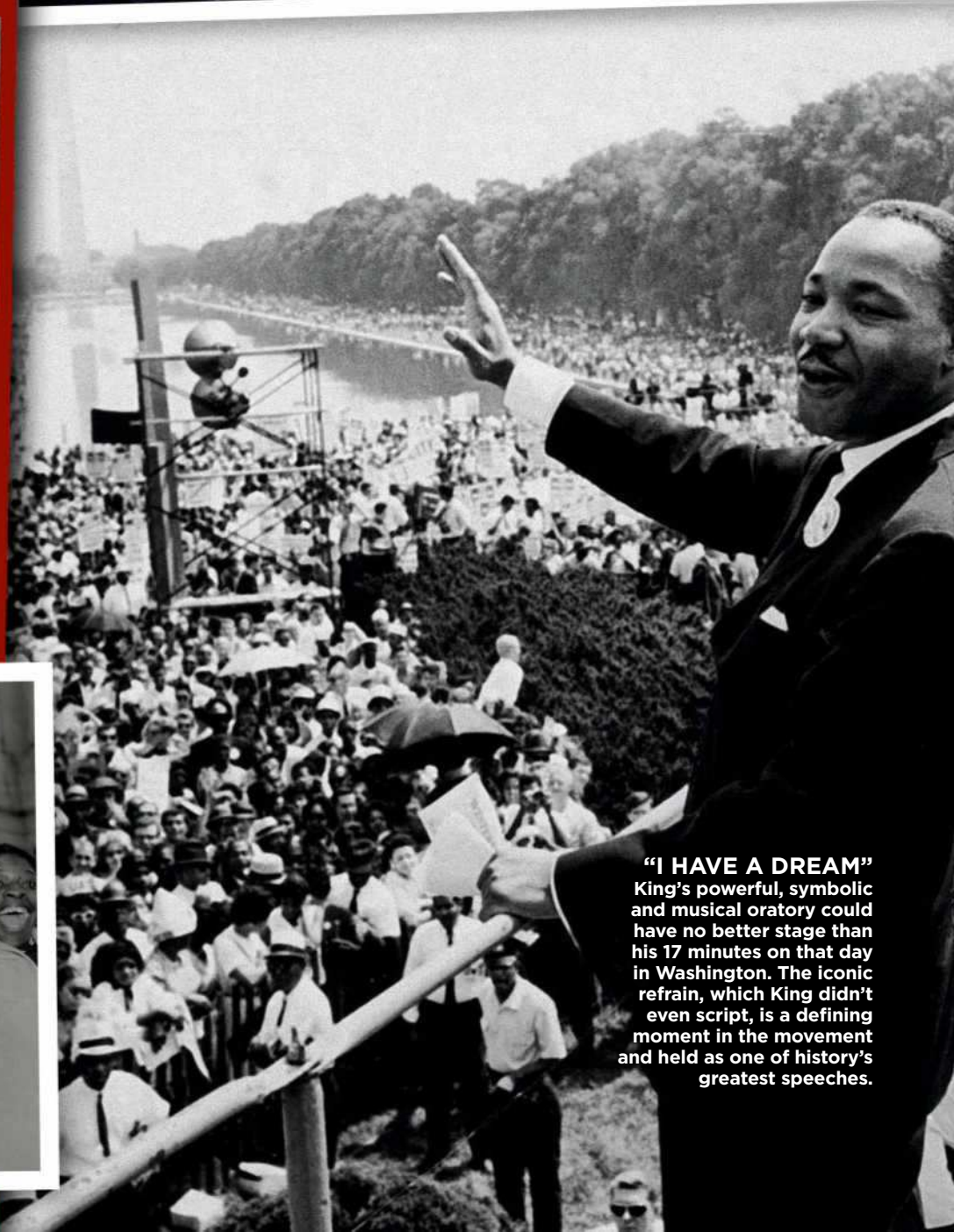
MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT

King leads a mass boycott of the city's buses in December 1955, which ends with desegregation. During the 381-day campaign, King's house is bombed and he is arrested. Coretta welcomes him with a kiss, amid jubilant scenes, after leaving court a free man and a champion of civil rights.



MARCH ON WASHINGTON

On 28 August 1963, King joins around 250,000 people – black and white – for a peaceful march in the US capital, the likes of which has never been seen before.



"I HAVE A DREAM"

King's powerful, symbolic and musical oratory could have no better stage than his 17 minutes on that day in Washington. The iconic refrain, which King didn't even script, is a defining moment in the movement and held as one of history's greatest speeches.



CIVIL RIGHTS ACT
After signing the historic Civil Rights Act in 1964, outlawing discrimination based on race, colour, religion, sex or national origin, President Lyndon B Johnson hands one of the pens used to King.

“NEGROES ... HAVE DEMONSTRATED THAT NON-VIOLENCE IS NOT STERILE PASSIVITY, BUT A POWERFUL MORAL FORCE”

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE ACCEPTANCE SPEECH, 1964



KKK ATTACK

A commitment to non-violence does not protect King from death threats and attacks – the Ku Klux Klan target his home by leaving a burning cross on the front lawn. Holding his son, Martin, King is painfully aware that his family is being put at risk.

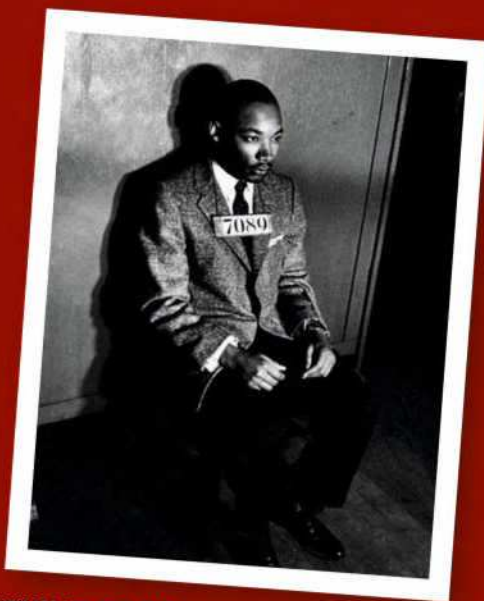
RISKING LIFE AND FREEDOM

Being a civil rights figurehead means King is both beloved and despised



WHEN KING NEARLY DIED

As he signed copies of his book *Stride Towards Freedom* on 20 September 1958, King was stabbed by Izola Curry, a mentally disturbed black woman. Surgery is required to remove the letter opener from his chest as it is so close to his heart.



BEHIND BARS

Starting in 1955 with the Montgomery Bus Boycott – when this mugshot was taken – King is arrested dozens of times. He faces inflated jail times, on one occasion being sentenced to four months for participating in a sit-in.

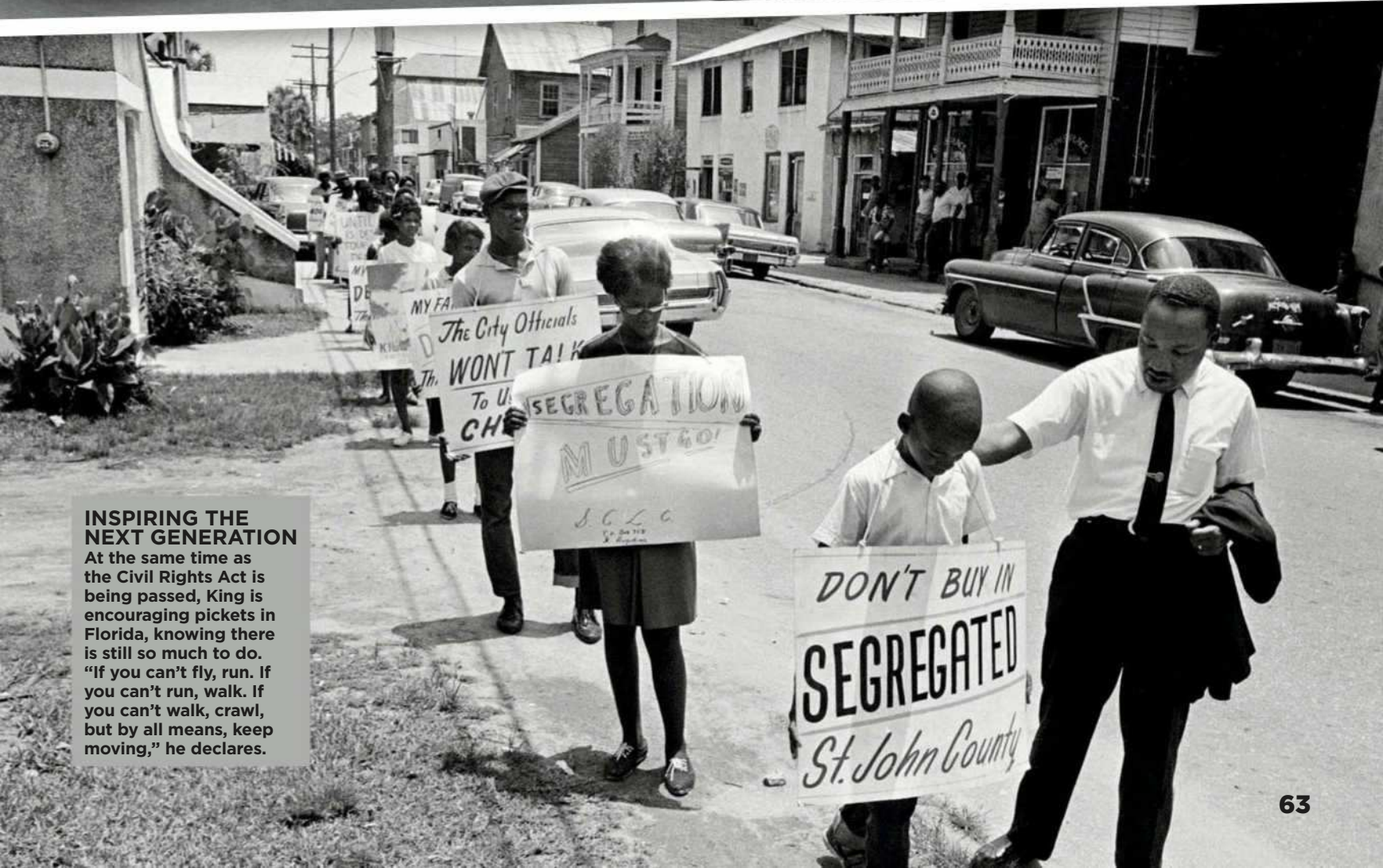
SHOTS FIRED

In 1964, the SCLC heads to St Augustine, Florida, to organise non-violent demonstrations and nightly marches, during which they are assaulted by white segregationists. The beach cottage rented for King is shot at, but luckily no-one is there at the time.

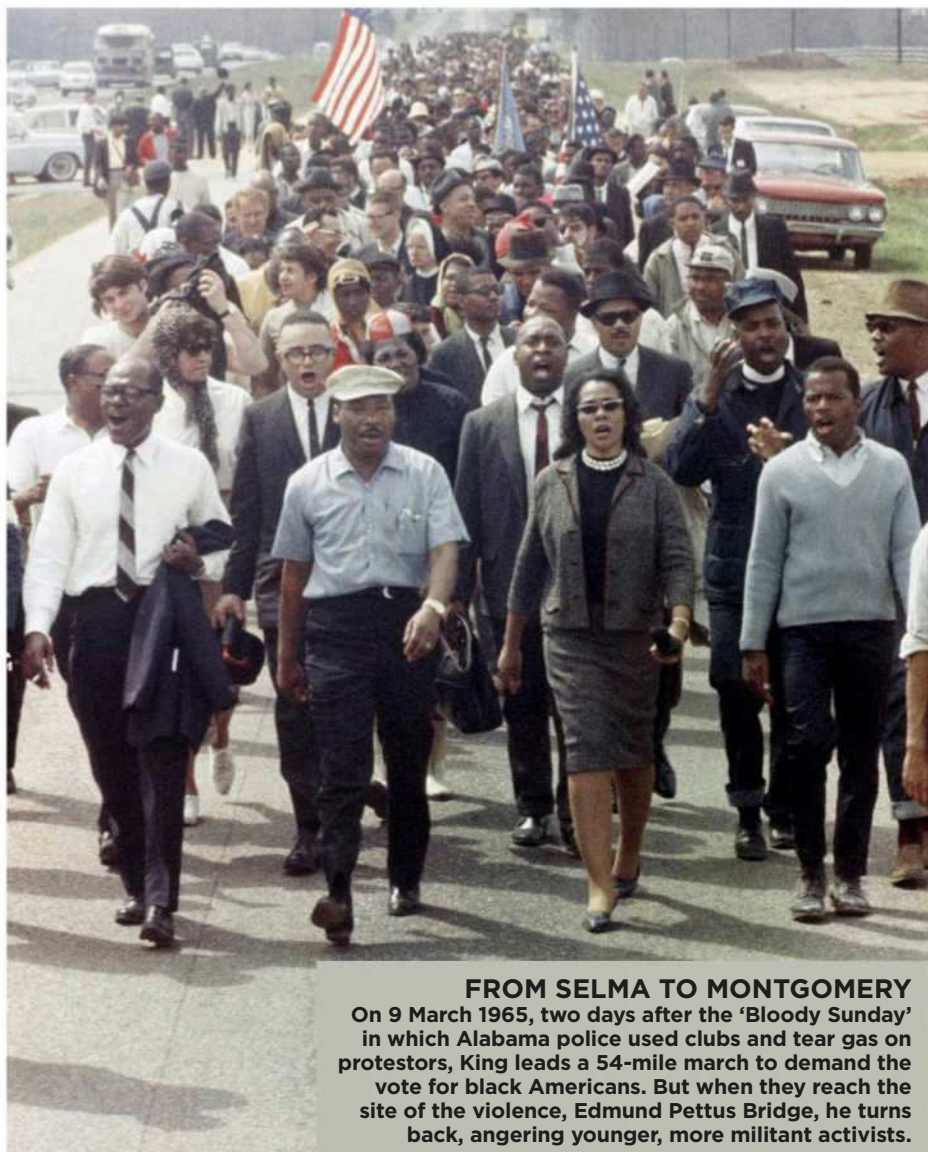


NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

When King returns to Baltimore in October 1964 after being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, thousands line the streets desperate just to touch his hand.

**INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION**

At the same time as the Civil Rights Act is being passed, King is encouraging pickets in Florida, knowing there is still so much to do. "If you can't fly, run. If you can't run, walk. If you can't walk, crawl, but by all means, keep moving," he declares.



FROM SELMA TO MONTGOMERY

On 9 March 1965, two days after the 'Bloody Sunday' in which Alabama police used clubs and tear gas on protestors, King leads a 54-mile march to demand the vote for black Americans. But when they reach the site of the violence, Edmund Pettus Bridge, he turns back, angering younger, more militant activists.



"HOW LONG? NOT LONG"

Another march makes it to the Alabama state capital in Montgomery, where King, after some last-minute checks while sitting on the platform, delivers yet another famous speech.

THE FINAL ACT: KING'S DEATH

His words and deeds bring hope, but his assassination intensifies division



THE DAY BEFORE, 3 APRIL 1968

King checks into a regular base, the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee, to support a strike by sanitation workers. With him during a brief respite on the balcony are some of his inner circle: (l-r) Hosea Williams, Jesse Jackson and Ralph Abernathy.



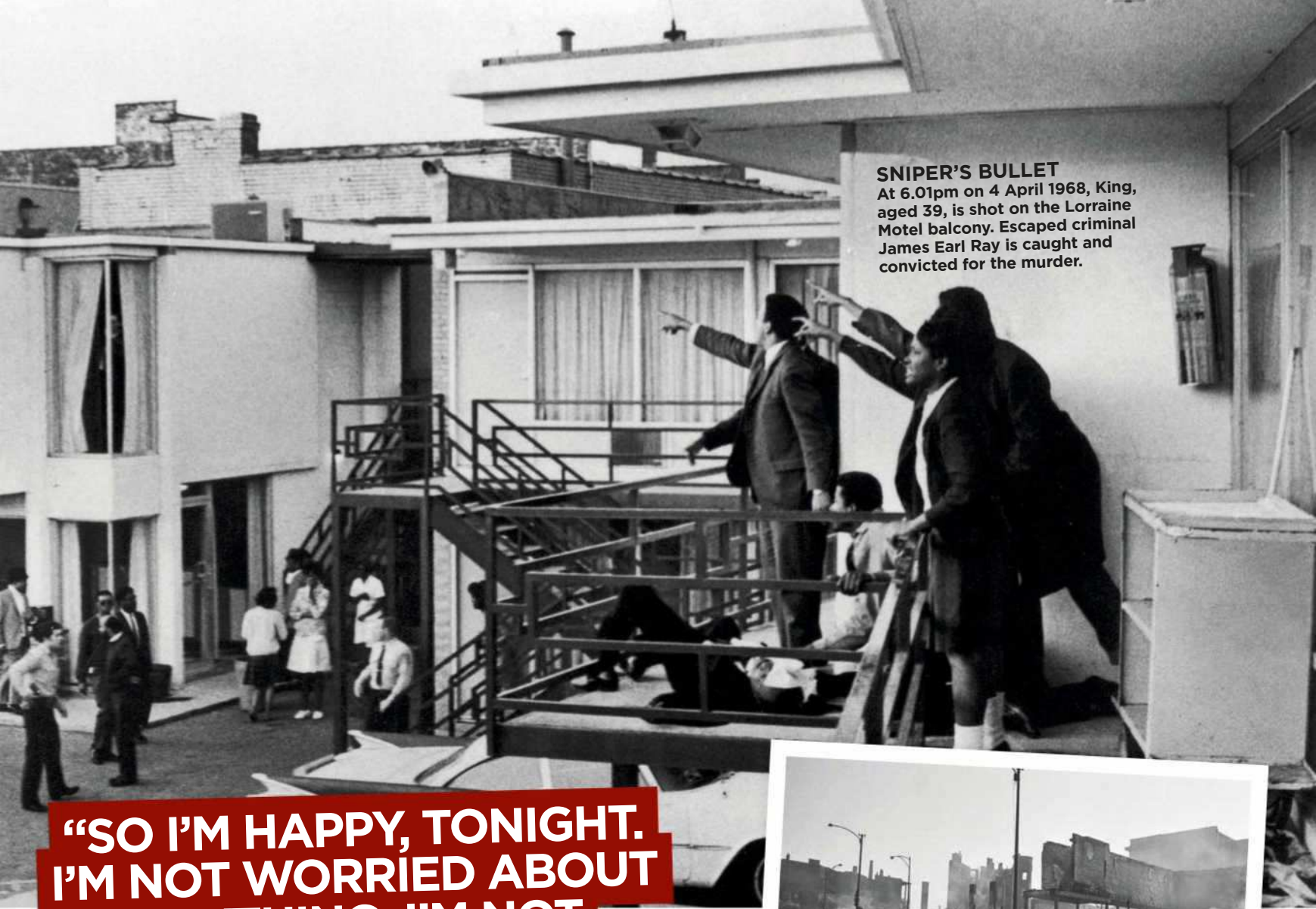
"I'VE BEEN TO THE MOUNTAINTOP"

That night, King delivers a speech at Mason Temple, ending with the poignant words: "I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you, but I want you to know tonight that we as a people will get to the Promised Land."

SAYING GOODBYE

On the day of the funeral, a private service is held at Ebenezer Baptist Church, where King served as pastor, before his coffin is placed on a wagon and pulled through Atlanta's streets. Some 100,000 people see the procession or attend the service at Morehouse College - at the front is Coretta Scott, comforting their youngest child, Bernice.





SNIPER'S BULLET

At 6.01pm on 4 April 1968, King, aged 39, is shot on the Lorraine Motel balcony. Escaped criminal James Earl Ray is caught and convicted for the murder.

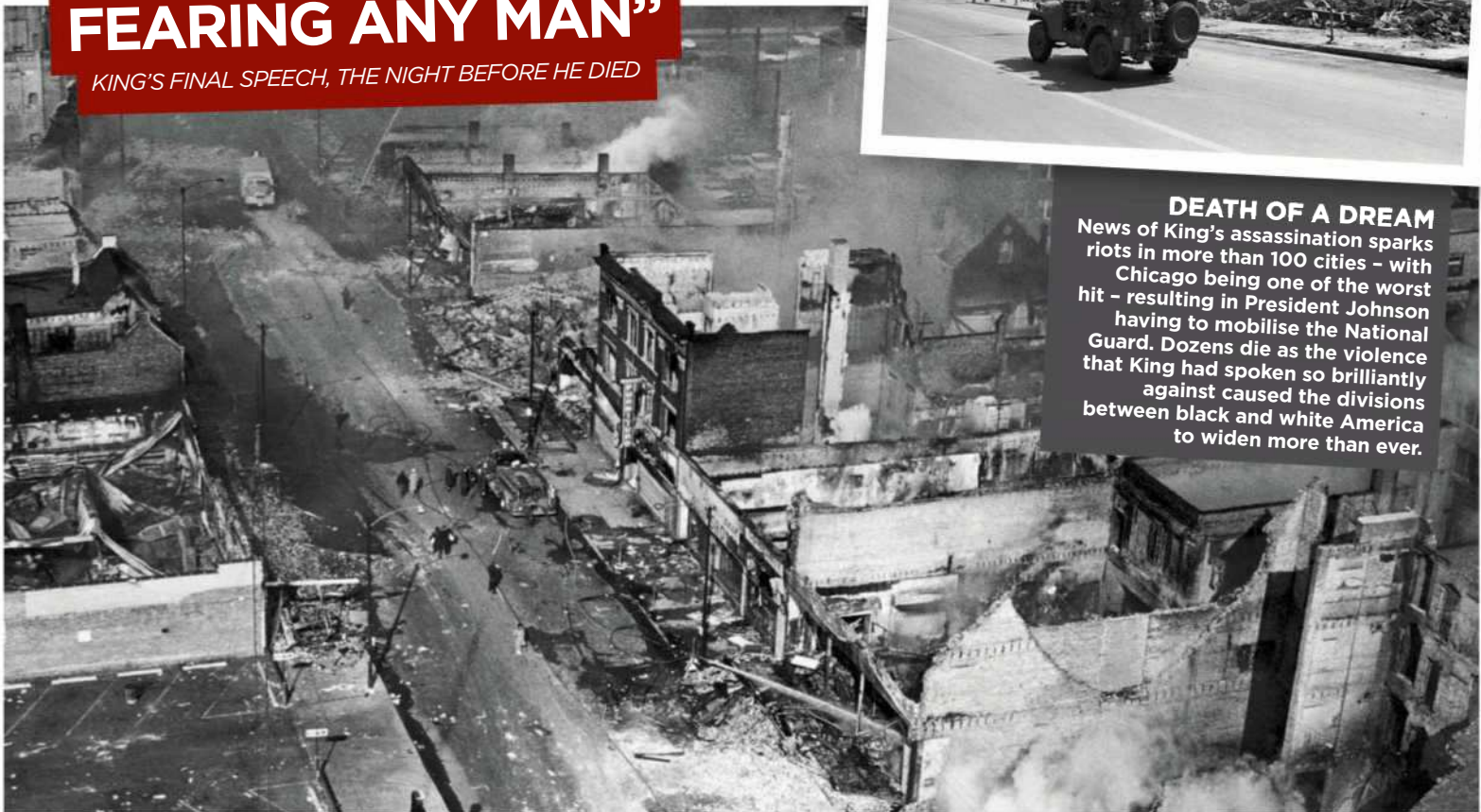
**"SO I'M HAPPY, TONIGHT.
I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT
ANYTHING. I'M NOT
FEARING ANY MAN"**

KING'S FINAL SPEECH, THE NIGHT BEFORE HE DIED



DEATH OF A DREAM

News of King's assassination sparks riots in more than 100 cities - with Chicago being one of the worst hit - resulting in President Johnson having to mobilise the National Guard. Dozens die as the violence that King had spoken so brilliantly against caused the divisions between black and white America to widen more than ever.





THE 2018 HERITAGE GUIDE

2018 is set to be another great year for historical anniversaries. There are also a number of key events, exhibitions and festivals to enjoy throughout the year. Why not explore and support some of the heritage sites that can be found in your area and beyond?



BLYTH BATTERY VOLUNTEERS LTD

Blyth Battery is a coastal defence museum situated on South Beach in Blyth, Northumberland. It consists of 11 buildings used in both WWI and WWII. It is run by a staff of volunteers who open the buildings every weekend from April to September. We have a café for drinks and snacks. We are more than happy to tell you the history of the battery in both wars and give guided tours to enrich your visit. Entrance is free but donations are always welcome.

blythbattery.org.uk • 01670 368816



BOSWORTH BATTLEFIELD CENTRE

Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre tells the dramatic story of the Battle of Bosworth on 22 August 1485, which marked a major turning point in English history. Discover more about the battle where Richard III lost his life and crown at the hands of Henry Tudor's army. Learn how the battle unfolded in our award-winning exhibition, where the interactive, hands-on displays reveal more about medieval warfare. Explore the Battlefield Trail on your own or with one of our expert battlefield guides. And for a real battlefield experience, join us for the Bosworth Medieval Festival on 18 and 19 August 2018.

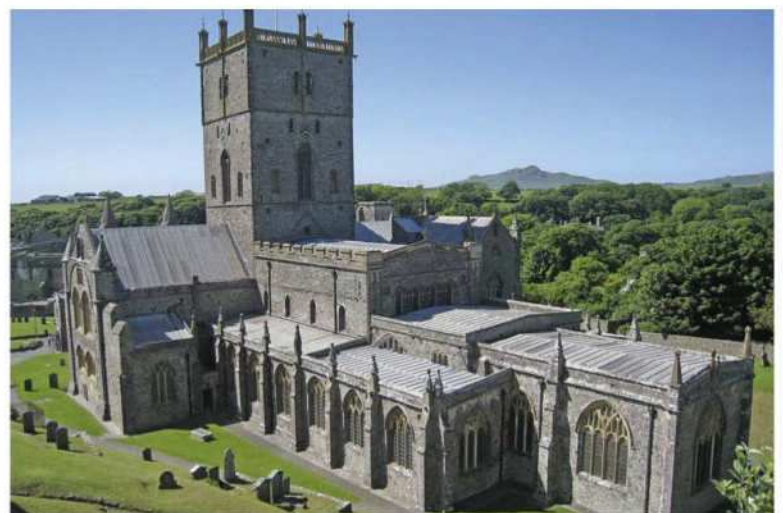
bosworthbattlefield.org.uk • 01455 290429



LIBRARY & MUSEUM OF FREEMASONRY

Discover 300 years of freemasonry in this unique museum, set within the spectacular art deco surrounds of Freemasons' Hall. Find out how it all started, why people join and how this global organisation has evolved over time in response to wider social changes. View items belonging to famous masons – from George IV's huge, gilded throne to Winston Churchill's apron – or join a free guided tour and set foot inside the Grand Temple itself. See the website for events, special exhibitions and resources for researchers and family historians. Open Monday to Saturday, 10am-5pm. Free entry.

freemasonry.london.museum • 020 7395 9257



ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL

For almost a millennium and a half, St Davids has been a place of pilgrimage. St David came here to find solitude for himself and his community. On the site of Tyddewi (St Davids house and monastery), later generations built and adorned this splendid cathedral. It has stood for over 800 years as a noble example of medieval architecture; as the centre of the diocese; as the parish church of the city of St Davids; and as a place where prayer and the praise of God are offered daily. We hope that you enjoy your visit.

stdavidscathedral.org.uk • 01437 720202

SENATE HOUSE LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

BLOOMSBURY, LONDON



Senate House Library is one of the UK's largest academic libraries focused on the arts, humanities and social sciences with works from the medieval period to the modern age. It cares for over 2 million books, 50 special collections and 1,800 archive collections which have been developed since the 1870s.

With over 50,000 pamphlets on 19th and 20th-century radical political movements and treasures such as Shakespeare's First Folios, the Terry Pratchett Archive and the Harry Price Library of Magical Literature, Senate House Library is one of London's hidden cultural gems. Located in Bloomsbury (just behind the British Museum) within the iconic art deco, Grade II-listed Senate House, formerly the Ministry of Information during WWII, it is steeped in history. It is most famous for being George Orwell's inspiration for the Ministry

of Truth in his famous dystopian novel 1984.

The Library offers public membership, as well as being University of London's main library for students and academics. There are also regular free exhibitions and events open to the public. The current exhibition and events season is *Queer Between The Covers*, which explores over 250 years of queer literature (15 January-16 June 2018). The next is *Rights for Women – London's Pioneers of Progress* (16 July-15 December 2018).

INFORMATION:

Public Membership: £5 per day, £70 for 3 months (more offers available) Free to UoL students.

Open: Monday to Thursday, 9am-8.45pm, Friday 9am-6.15pm & Saturday 9.45am-5.15pm.

020 7862 8500
senatehouselibrary.ac.uk

HEVER CASTLE

KENT

Hever, the romantic double-moated castle in the Weald of Kent, is famous for being the childhood home of Anne Boleyn, second wife of Henry VIII and mother of Queen Elizabeth I.

The original medieval castle with its gatehouse and walled bailey was built in 1270, with the Tudor dwelling added within its walls by the powerful Boleyn family, who lived at Hever during the 15th and 16th centuries. Its splendid panelled rooms contain fine furniture, tapestries, an important collection of Tudor portraits and artefacts including two books of hours signed and inscribed by Anne Boleyn.

Visitors to the castle can view 46 Tudor pictures including portraits of Henry VIII and each of his six wives. Historian David Starkey described it as "one of the best collections of Tudor portraits after the National Portrait Gallery".

At a time when many grand gardens in England still bore the unmistakable legacy of 'Capability' Brown, Hever Castle's gardens broke the mould. Former owner William Waldorf Astor's passion for the Tudors and love for Italy resulted in an eclectic garden design that is recognised today as one of the great gardens of the world.

Each area of the gardens has its own style and character, from the magnificent Italian Garden, which leads to the majestic Loggia overlooking a 38-acre lake, to the Tudor Garden and walled Rose Garden, containing over 4,000 fragrant roses.

Visitors aged 7-14 can explore the new Tudor Towers adventure playground with its own moat, drawbridge and three turrets. It features three slides, two poles and lots of interactive elements, including musical instruments, a roof maze and hidden boxes to find.



Photo: Hever Castle & Gardens

01732 865224
hevercastle.co.uk



HEVER CASTLE
& GARDENS



LADY WATERFORD HALL

The 'hidden gem' on Ford & Etal Estates, the hall was commissioned by Louisa, Marchioness of Waterford, in 1860 and served as the village school for almost a century. Housing an unique collection of life-size watercolour murals depicting the faces of those who lived and worked on Louisa's estate in Northumberland, the hall tells the fascinating story of Lady Waterford, a talented artist and great benefactress who suffered much tragedy in her personal life. This year marks 200 years since Louisa's birth, with an open weekend 14 and 15 April.

ford-and-etale.co.uk • 07790 457580



AETHELFLAED – ANGLO SAXON FESTIVAL

Find out about the Lady of Mercia with a weekend of Events at the Aethelflaed 1100 Festival. Visit an Anglo-Saxon living history camp at St Oswald's Priory – the venue she built and was buried in 1100 years ago. Book tickets for talks by well known historians including Dr Janina Ramirez, Michael Hare and archaeologist Carolyn Heighway. Take a free guided tour around the city to learn about 5th-century Gloucester and visit the Museum of Gloucester for an interactive exhibition. Event runs 9 -10 June in Gloucester.

gloucesterhistoryfestival.co.uk • 01452 396572

ST MARY'S HOUSE & GARDENS



Few buildings in Sussex reflect the rich tapestry of the county's history over almost 900 years as well as the magnificent, timber-framed St Mary's House in Bramber. It has stood at the centre of this idyllic, traditional, English village for some six centuries. Sir Simon Jenkins, in his book *England's Thousand Best Houses*, describes St Mary's as both "a shrine to medieval Sussex" and "eccentric and delightful". The fine panelled interiors include the unique Elizabethan 'Painted Room' with its intriguing trompe l'oeil murals, the magnificent Victorian Music Room and many fascinating collections.

The five acres of grounds include formal gardens with amusing topiary and an exceptional example of the prehistoric tree Ginkgo biloba, Jubilee Rose Garden, the Poetry Garden, a woodland walk, and the Landscape Water Garden. A special delight is the secret, walled garden with rare pineapple pits, and terracotta framework. The newly-designed King's Garden, opened by HRH Princess Alexandra last year, features a descendant of the famous Boscobel Oak, recalling the visit of King Charles II during his escape to France. St Mary's is a magical, timeless place – a haven of tranquillity and beauty. It's One of the most beautiful places I've ever visited in England.



OPENING TIMES

April - September.

Sunday & Thursday 2pm - 6pm

01903 816205

stmarysbramber.co.uk



HAMMERWOOD PARK

Hammerwood Park was built at the height of the French Revolutionary period in 1792 by Benjamin Latrobe, architect of the White House and Capitol building in Washington, DC, as a temple and park – dedicated to fertility god Dionysus in the context of the agricultural revolution. Hammerwood is one of the earliest Greek Revival buildings in Britain. The venue holds summer concerts and there is wheelchair access to the garden, ground floor and tea room. Open for guided tours at 2pm on Wednesdays, Saturdays and bank holiday Mondays, from June - September. Adults £10, children free.

hammerwoodpark.co.uk • 01342 850594



KEMPTON STEAM MUSEUM & WATERWORKS RAILWAY



This year, Kempton Steam Museum celebrates the 90th anniversary of its two magnificent 1,000-ton, triple-expansion steam pumping engines, in the unique setting of its art deco engine house. Prepare to be amazed as the 32-ton flywheels begin to turn on the world's largest working triple as it comes to life on one of Kempton's monthly steaming weekends. Kids will love a ride on the museum's narrow-gauge railway and no visitor can resist Kempton's delicious home-made cakes and sausage rolls!

kemptonsteam.org • 01568 720571



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association@westminster-abbey.org • 020 7654 4843



THE AUCHINDRAIN TOWNSHIP

Experience a forgotten part of Scotland's past at Auchindrain. Auchindrain is the last remaining Highland farming township, a type of settlement which vanished almost completely during the time of the Highland Clearances. Auchindrain survived, and visitors to the open-air museum here can explore the buildings and landscape where people once lived, worked and spent their lives.

There is a visitor centre and coffee shop on site. Auchindrain is ten minutes south of Inveraray, on the A83.

auchindrain.org.uk • 01499 500235

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Q&A

YOU ASK, WE ANSWER



SPARTAN QUEEN
Gorgo - played by
Lena Headey in *300*
- was the daughter,
wife and mother of
three Spartan kings



WHAT WAS LIFE LIKE FOR SPARTAN WOMEN?

When Gorgo, Queen of Sparta and wife to leader-of-the-300 Leonidas, was asked why Spartans were the only women in Greece able to rule over men, she allegedly replied: "Because we are the only ones who give birth to men!" It's a snappy line, boasting of both the superiority of Spartan warriors, and the influence and freedoms enjoyed by its women.

From what is known, based on admittedly scant documentation, the differences began in

childhood. Spartan girls received a formal education and were encouraged to take part in exercise, providing them with greater intellect and athleticism than seen in other Greek states. By competing in public - either in short tunics or, more shockingly to outsiders, naked - Spartan girls learned how to stand their ground against men.

The main purpose was so they grew into strong, healthy women able to have strong, healthy babies. As Gorgo alluded to, Spartan

society held motherhood as the chief honour for women. With that in mind, they tended to marry later than usual, as late as their 20s, when they were in peak physical condition.

As Spartan men dedicated much of their lives to the army, the women did not just stay home raising children. They conducted business affairs on behalf of their husbands and could own property. And, unlike in other areas of Greece, they had the legal right to divorce their husbands too.

PRINCE ALARMING
Statues like this one
do little to help
Machiavelli's image

WHERE DOES 'MACHIAVELLIAN' COME FROM?

Often summed up as 'the end justifies the means', Machiavellianism has come to refer to dishonest, unscrupulous and even immoral political deeds carried out for expediency. History is replete with figures who fit the description, but the man the term is named after is not necessarily one of them.

Niccolo Machiavelli, a former secretary and diplomat of the Florentine Republic, wrote *The Prince* in 1513. In this political treatise, he described a 'new prince' as someone who was cunning, calculating,

deceiving, willing to kill ... and effective. *The Prince* condones "expediency in preference to morality" and, when published in 1532 (after Machiavelli's death) it sparked outrage across Europe. As a result, Machiavelli's name became the ultimate pejorative for a conniving politician.

Yet many say Machiavelli's meaning was more complex than his reputation suggests. The debate continues; the name has stuck.

WHEN WAS TRANSPORTING CONVICTS TO AUSTRALIA STOPPED?

Starting with the First Fleet's landing in early 1788, the British government sent around 165,000 convicts to penal colonies in Australia. It was hoped that transportation would relieve prison overcrowding, which had become so bad that old ships, or hulks, had to be used as disease-ridden and cramped floating jails.

Yet the prospect of being carted off to the other side of the world was no more appealing to those sentenced for a petty crime, mostly theft. The journey took months and, once there, prisoners laboured in gangs with the scorching sun and their guards' discipline beating down on them.

Yet, in spite of the tough conditions, many chose to stay in Australia after serving their time.

As settlement grew in the 19th century, so did opposition to transportation. In Australia, the concern was that convicts took work from free people, while back in Britain the arguments focused on the expense of a punishment that had failed to deter crime. Under increased pressure, the government ceased transportation to New South Wales in 1840, although it continued to other areas. The voyage of the last convict ship, the *Hougoumont*, did not end until January 1868, almost 80 years to the day after the First Fleet's arrival.

4

The number of
emperors who ruled
Rome in AD 69,
during a period
of civil war following
the death of Nero

What were **rotten boroughs**?

If you've ever thought the electoral system in Britain not to be all that fair, just be grateful rotten boroughs don't exist anymore. Prior to the 1832 Reform Act, there were well over 100 constituencies with minuscule numbers of voters, but they still sent MPs to parliament based on their historic representation. So Dunwich in Suffolk had two seats in parliament despite having

mostly collapsed in the sea, while Gatton in Surrey and Old Sarum in Wiltshire only had 18 voters between them. This made them prone to corruption as the landowner could bribe or cajole the tiny electorate into doing what he wanted.

To make matters worse, huge cities emerging in the Industrial Revolution, such as Manchester, Birmingham and Sheffield, did not have individual MPs.



AGED AND ROTTEN
Old Sarum was an early
settlement of Salisbury

DID YOU KNOW?

WHO'S AT FAULT, WALT?

Among the many disasters that plagued the opening of Disneyland on 17 July 1955, a woman became stuck when her heel sunk into the wet asphalt on the park's main street, which had only been laid that morning.

NUN THE WISER

Before going to uni, Elena Cornaro wanted to be a nun

Who was the first woman to get a PhD?

The first man to receive a PhD did so in the mid-12th century, but it would take another 500 years before the same honour would be bestowed on a woman.

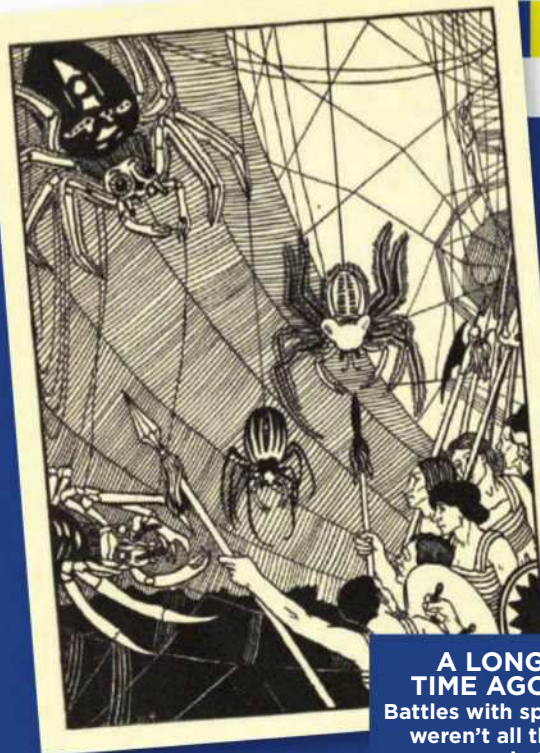
Elena Cornaro, born in Venice in 1646, demonstrated an aptitude for learning at an early age. At seven, she began her education of languages, and eventually mastered Italian, Latin, Greek, French, Spanish, Arabic and Hebrew. She excelled in every subject she undertook, including mathematics, astronomy, philosophy and theology, as well as becoming a skilled musician.

Cornaro's intellect made her something of a celebrity, which led to her attending the University of Padua in 1672. There, one of her tutors petitioned for Cornaro to be awarded a degree in theology, and while this was refused – the Church did not permit a woman to be a doctor of theology – the university did let her study for a doctorate in philosophy instead.

So, on 25 June 1678, the 32-year-old became the first female PhD, having been presented with a laurel wreath, a cape made of ermine, a golden ring and a book of philosophy.

WHAT WERE WATERLOO TEETH?

A smile full of white, healthy chompers was a rare thing at the turn of the 19th century. With dentistry in an experimental phase, tooth care proved less important than tooth replacement, which took the form of dentures made of ivory, bone or (the best option for the wealthy) secondhand human teeth. Tooth pulling became a lucrative business – and the battlefields of Waterloo, with tens of thousands of men lying dead, were gold mines for gnashers. The teeth would be boiled and set into ivory bases, before finding a new home in someone else's mouth.



A LONG TIME AGO...
Battles with spiders weren't all that common in the second century

What is the oldest sci-fi?

Spaceships, aliens, strange creatures and diabolical schemes to win a war for planetary control – it sounds like a story that would be at home on the cinema screens of today (it is the essential basis of *Star Wars*, after all). In fact, it comes from the satirically titled *True History* from the second century.

Lampooning travel writing of the time, Lucian of Samosata writes of his unexpected trip to the moon, where he meets the local lifeforms and becomes embroiled in their war with the people of the sun. What follows includes giant spiders, cloud-centaurs and the sun king's triumph by building a wall across space.

True History has been put forward as the earliest-known sci-fi, but it has not convinced all. Another theory – and there will never be a shortage of theories among sci-fi fans – argues that it was only after the scientific revolutions of the 18th century that the genre emerged. This would put works such as *Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift at the forefront.

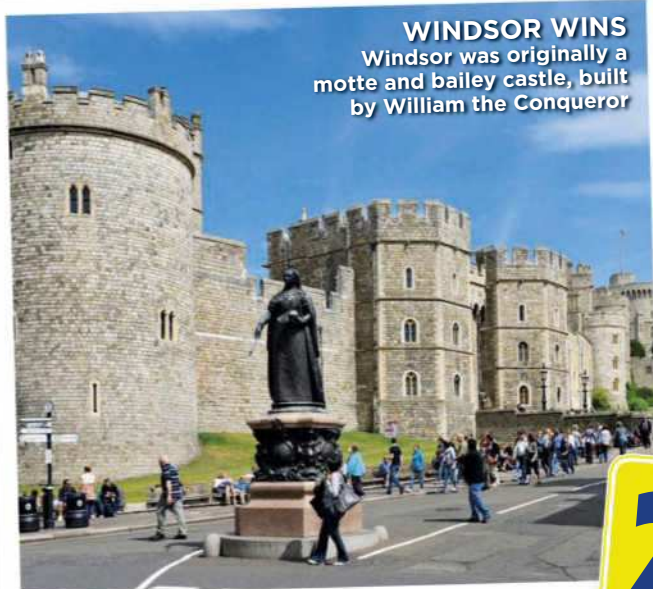


DEAD MAN'S DENTURES
Soldiers gave more than their lives at Waterloo

How did the royals choose 'Windsor'?



"Our house and family shall be styled and known as ... Windsor," read George V's proclamation of 17 July 1917. As cousin of Kaiser Wilhelm II, the King had felt the pressure of anti-German sentiment in Britain as World War I trundled on. His family name of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha had to go after London started being bombed by aircraft called 'Gotha'. A number of choices were rejected (Tudor, Plantagenet and England to name a few) before George's private secretary, Lord Stamfordham, had the thought of using the name of a place associated with the royals in England since the Normans. 'Windsor' was necessarily regal and English-sounding, and proved instantly popular.



WINDSOR WINS
Windsor was originally a motte and bailey castle, built by William the Conqueror

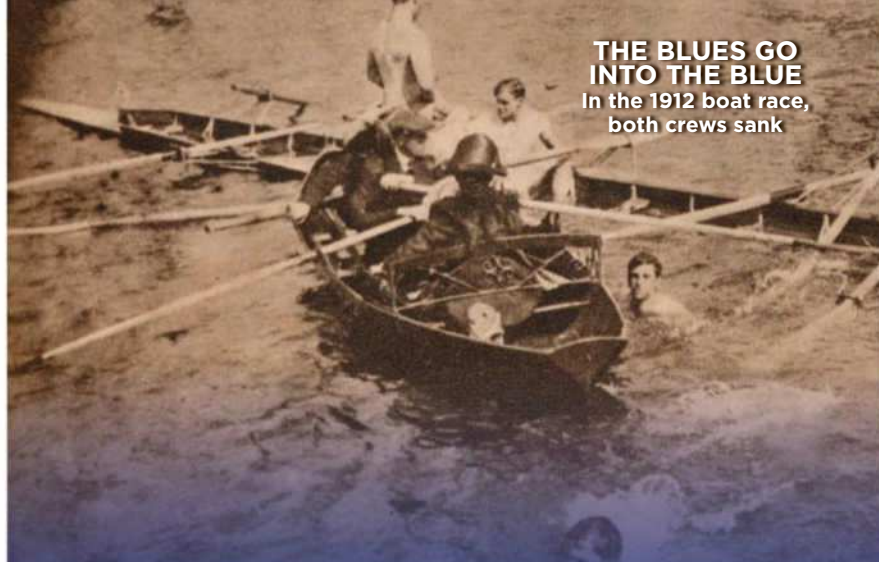
IS IT TRUE THAT SPARTACUS'S BODY WAS NEVER FOUND?



Yes. There is no way of knowing how the legendary leader died in battle in 71 BC. He would have been in the thick of the fighting when Marcus Licinius Crassus, the Roman commander with money to burn and glory to win, landed the killer blow against his slave revolt, so it is no wonder that he disappeared in the mass of bodies and gore. He certainly wouldn't have been wearing a sign around his neck reading 'I AM SPARTACUS'. For all we know, Spartacus may have been among the 6,000 prisoners that Crassus had crucified along the Appian Way.

ALAMY X3

THE BLUES GO INTO THE BLUE
In the 1912 boat race, both crews sank



HOW OLD IS THE BOAT RACE?



In early 1829, the Cambridge University Boat Club sent a message to their rivals at Oxford, challenging them to a rowing race along the Thames, in eight-oared boats. Despite not having a boat club yet, Oxford accepted, and the great sporting rivalry between the two universities was born.

Though Cambridge issued the challenge, it was an Oxford student who first came up with the idea.

Charles Wordsworth, nephew of poet William Wordsworth and son to a Cambridge don, spent a holiday in the rival town. While rowing gently along the Cam with a school friend, the thought struck him – Oxford and Cambridge

competed over everything, so why not boating? On 10 June, the two crews met at Henley, Oxford, wearing the dark blue of Christ Church College, won – having had the opportunity to practice on that stretch of the river. It would be another seven years before Cambridge, adopting light blue, had their revenge in the second race.

The first women's boat race took place in 1927. There was also a key difference to the now-established annual men's event – rather than being a straight race, the two boats rowed at separate times and they were judged on time and style. Oxford's women matched the men and came out victorious.

But while the crews didn't actually compete against each other, they did have to face off against spectators, angry to see women rowing. "Large and hostile crowds gathered on the towpath," according to *The Times*.

280

The number of women that Sultan Ibrahim of the Ottoman Empire had drowned in a river in a single fit of insanity – it was his entire harem



Thanks to Richard Ives for sending in his questions

NOW SEND US YOUR QUESTIONS



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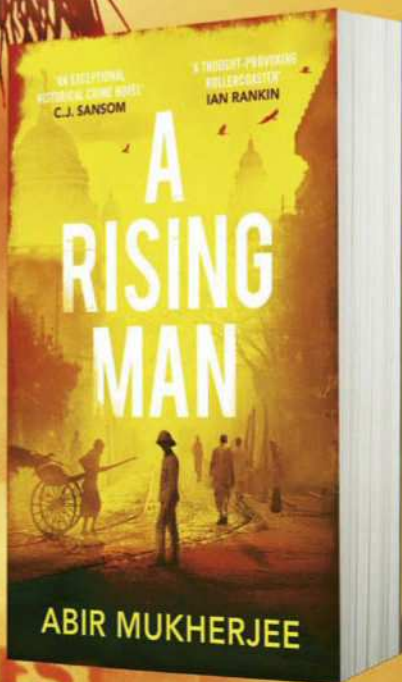


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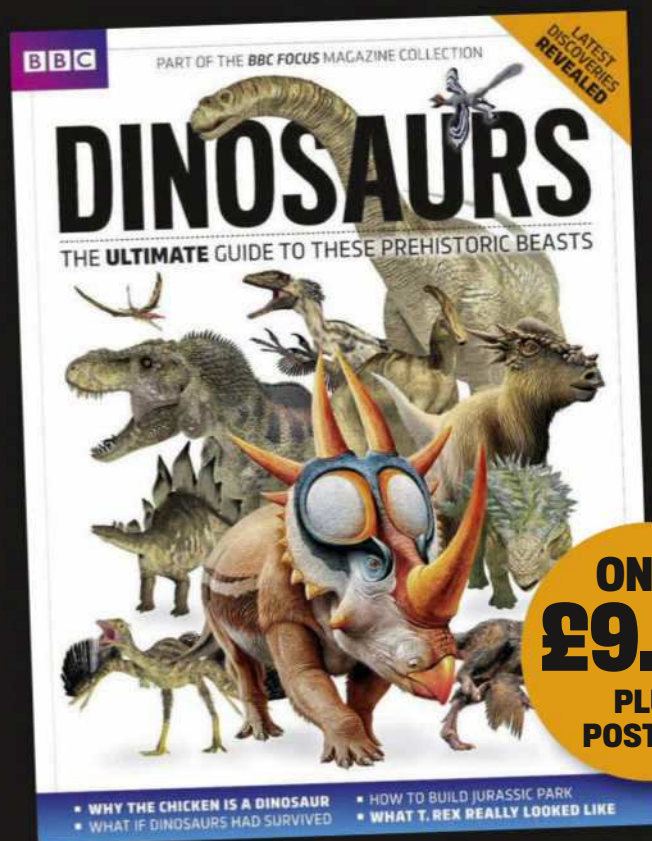
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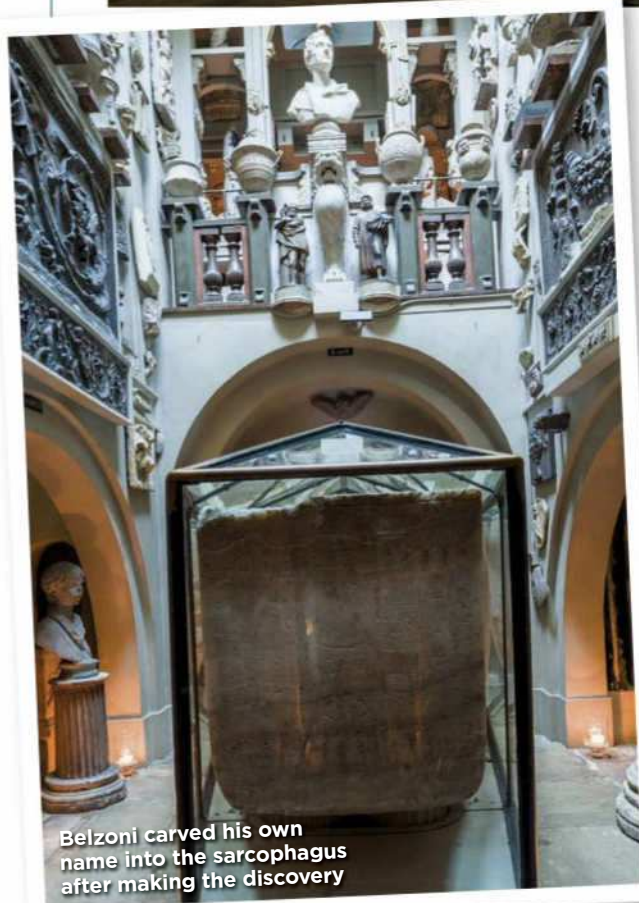
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A guide to what's happening in
the world of history over
the coming weeks



'The Great Belzoni':
pioneering Egyptologist or
plundering treasure hunter?



Belzoni carved his own
name into the sarcophagus
after making the discovery

EXHIBITION

Egypt Uncovered: Belzoni and the Tomb of Pharaoh Seti I

Ends 15 April at Sir John Soane's Museum,
London, www.soane.org

Giovanni Belzoni may have been a circus strongman, but he made his name as an Egyptologist. His greatest find was the exquisite sarcophagus of Seti I, cut from a single piece of alabaster. Bought by Sir John Soane in 1824, it is the centrepiece of a fascinating exhibition tracing its discovery and conservation. Don't miss this chance to follow in the footsteps of the most unlikely of Egyptologists and his most splendid achievement.

WHAT'S ON

Our guide to upcoming
events, including the new
Rodin exhibition at the
British Museum p82



BRITAIN'S TREASURES

Regent's Park p84



GETTY XI, MUSEE RODIN XI

BOOK REVIEWS

Our look at
the best new
releases....p86



POSTCARDS FROM THE PAST

Your top snaps of
historical landmarks..p90



GARETH GARDNER X2, STEPHEN KERRIGAN XI

EXHIBITION

Special Forces: In the Shadows

National Army Museum, London, until 18 November,
www.nam.ac.uk/whats-on/special-forces-shadows

In its first major exhibition since its reopening, the National Army Museum shines a light on the shadowy world of the British Army Special Forces. Founded during World War II – around the time that these SAS troops were photographed – each of the five elite units has a unique role in security and military operations. All are explored in several revealing sections, filled with personal testimonies, rare photos and objects from the past 70 years. Discover more about the men who serve, the selection process, the skills and training, and the operations – including their most public moment, the Iranian Embassy siege of 1980.





Rodin was especially impressed by the still-controversial Elgin Marbles



The sculptor built a museum in Meudon to house his antiquities

The Greek influence is clear in the adulterous lovers of 'The Kiss'



EXHIBITION

Rodin and the Art of Ancient Greece

Opens 26 April at the British Museum, London, www.britishmuseum.org

In 1881, the great French sculptor Auguste Rodin visited the British Museum and felt so inspired by the Ancient Greek figures he saw that they changed the manner of his work. Now, some of his masterpieces, including 'The Thinker' and 'The Kiss', and more than 80 original plaster, bronze and marble pieces on loan from the Musée Rodin in Paris, will stand side-by-side with the ancient sculptures that had such an effect on him.

ANNIVERSARY

Medieval Birthday Bash

30 March to 2 April at
Caerphilly Castle, South Wales,
www.cadw.gov.wales

To celebrate its 750 years, Caerphilly Castle is bringing back the medieval days for a packed weekend over Easter. With the help of re-enactment society Historia Normannis, knights will march through the South Wales town, do battle in the impressive fortress grounds and test the siege engines.



Caerphilly is the largest castle in Wales, covering 30 acres

TO BUY

Viking Drinking Horn

£35, Jorvik Viking Centre, York,
www.jorvikshop.com

While they may not have had horns on their helmets, the Vikings still made the most of them for quaffing ale. Unlike the Scandi warriors, though, you won't have to hold yours until your drink is drained. Each unique cattle horn on sale at Viking attraction Jorvik comes with a stand, in case you don't feel like fully recreating a traditional feast.



Drinking horns were used in many civilisations



A sketch by Tupaia shows a Maori meeting with naturalist Joseph Banks; a page of Cook's journal



EXHIBITION

James Cook: The Voyages

Opens 27 April at the British Library, London,
www.bl.uk/events/james-cook-the-voyages

It is 250 years since Captain James Cook sailed from Plymouth aboard *Endeavour* for the first voyage to the Pacific. He would make two more, and this exhibition charts all three of them. The story is told through documents from the British Library's extensive collection – including handwritten log books, artwork, scientific reports, original maps and Cook's own journal, from 1768-79. For the first time together, the drawings of Polynesian high priest Tupaia, who joined Cook, will also be on display.

EXHIBITION

The Poppy: A Symbol of Remembrance

Opens 30 March at the National War Museum, Edinburgh,
www.nms.ac.uk/national-war-museum

From the battlefields of World War I to a symbol worn in remembrance, the poppy has had a lasting impact. Though this exhibition highlights the charitable aspect, it doesn't shy away from the debates that have raged over the poppy's politicisation. Still, what more fitting way for National Museums Scotland to conclude its centenary events than with the symbol worn every year to ensure that we never forget?

The remembrance poppy was inspired by the poem *In Flanders Fields*



▶ ALSO LOOK OUT FOR

- ▶ **Royal Women** – An exhibition examining the clothes worn by women in the royal family. Ends at the Fashion Museum in Bath on 28 April. www.fashionmuseum.co.uk
- ▶ **Designing English** – An illuminating look at the graphics in medieval handwritten manuscripts. Ends at the Bodleian Library, Oxford, on 22 April. www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk

BAND TOGETHER

A plaque on the bandstand commemorates seven soldiers who died in 1982, when a bomb planted by the IRA exploded during a concert by the Royal Green Jackets band.



BRITAIN'S TREASURES...

REGENT'S PARK London

This green utopia has had many uses, from manorial gardens to royal hunting grounds to farmland. But it became what it is today on the whim of a Georgian prince

GETTING THERE:

North-west of central London, Regent's Park is easy to reach by public transport. Check the park website for the nearest Tube stations and bus stops.

**OPENING TIMES AND PRICES:**

The park is free to access and always opens at 5am. Closing times vary between 4pm and 9.30pm, depending on the time of year.

FIND OUT MORE:

Call 0300 061 2000 or visit www.royalparks.org.uk/parks/the-regents-park

In 1811, the Prince Regent, the future George IV, thought that a long-undeveloped park in London was in need of landscaping so to better fit the image of the thriving metropolis, and satisfy his own love of grandeur. That year he commissioned John Nash, his city planner and chief architect, to deliver an ambitious design for a place of royal leisure, with a summer palace and villas for his aristocratic chums.

Nash's vision for the park would never be fulfilled, as George got distracted by improvements to

Buckingham Palace (another of Nash's creations). Yet what he left behind still came to be a beloved element of the capital, christened Regent's Park.

The land first became royal property during the dissolution of the monasteries in the 1530s. The sprawling woodland and wide spaces where deer roamed had belonged to the manor of Tyburn, which itself was owned by Barking Abbey. Henry VIII took possession of the vast tracts and turned it into his own hunting chase. So it remained until the British Civil Wars and the execution of King

Charles I in 1649. The subsequent decade saw Oliver Cromwell sell off parts of the park and cut down some 16,000 trees to pay the wages of his army. The land reverted back to the restored crown in 1660. By this time hunting had become less popular, and so Charles II decided to lease the area to tenant farmers.

By the early 19th century, London had grown and the Prince Regent saw that he could make better use of the land. John Nash – the architect who went on to build Marble Arch and the Royal Pavilion in

MARCHING ORDERS
It looks idyllic now, but in WWI part of the park was turned into a drill ground

WHAT TO LOOK FOR...



1 OPEN-AIR THEATRE

With a choice of productions in its summer-only season, this is a picturesque and atmospheric place to experience theatre. Book tickets on the theatre website.



2 QUEEN MARY GARDENS

Perhaps the most famous garden in the park, alive with some 12,000 roses. There are many other flowery spots to enjoy, including the Victorian-style Avenue Gardens.



3 LONDON ZOO

The world's oldest scientific zoo now holds more than 750 species. In its early years, residents included a now-extinct quagga – a subspecies of zebra.



4 PRIMROSE HILL

Just over the road on the northern edge of the park is another section of Henry VIII's former hunting chase, a grassy hill offering great views of London.



5 THE LAKE

Rowing boats and pedalos can be hired for up to an hour on the large lake, which is surrounded by beautiful greenery. There is also a mini-waterway just for children.



6 TERRACES

Though few villas were built, the park is lined with terraces. Many were built by architect Decimus Burton – who, it's said, largely ignored Nash's early designs.

“A much-loved getaway from the bustle of the city”

Brighton – designed the park as a giant circle, featuring a lake, canal, 56 detached villas and a summer palace. Work didn't get underway for several years, though, by which time George had lost the zeal he felt in 1811 and Nash revised his ambitions. Only eight villas were built and construction on the palace never even started.

NEW TOUCHES

Instead, the park became home to organisations, who leased the villas or added new touches with the construction of their own buildings. The Royal Botanic Society put up palm houses and, in 1828, the Zoological Society opened London Zoo – but only to society fellows or those nominated

by a fellow. Everyone else had to wait until 1847 to see the collection of exotic animals.

The general public could not enter Regent's Park at all before 1835, and then only for two days a week. Yet the tree-lined pathways, grand fountains and statues, and colourful flowerbeds soon made the park a much-loved country getaway from the bustle of the city.

The changes continued into the 20th century, with two notable additions coming in the 1930s. The land formerly used by the Royal Botanic Society became Queen Mary's Gardens, while not far away, performances began at an open-air theatre. It was around this time that the last of the wooden railings were replaced

with iron ones – a process begun in 1906. Then, during World War II, they were all taken down again, requisitioned for the war effort.

Today, Regent's Park offers a host of sights and activities to suit any mood. Around the edge is the nearly three-mile outer circle path, which passes the zoo, runs alongside the canal and offers views of the lake. Visitors can get onto the water by hiring a boat or pedalo. For those seeking something more energetic, much of the park's space is dedicated to sports pitches. The inner circle path is where the theatre, rose garden and some of the many cafes and restaurants can be found. It's easy to spend an entire sunny day in Regent's Park, and still want to come back on the next. 📍

WHY NOT VISIT...

There is no need to stray too far

THE SHERLOCK HOLMES MUSEUM

Just a stone's throw away is the world-famous 221B Baker Street. A charming museum celebrates Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's detective. www.sherlockholmes.co.uk

MADAME TUSSAIDS

Fancy meeting Albert Einstein, Charles Dickens, Marie Tussaud herself – or maybe someone who lived more recently? The wax museum still entertains after nearly 200 years. www.madametussauds.com

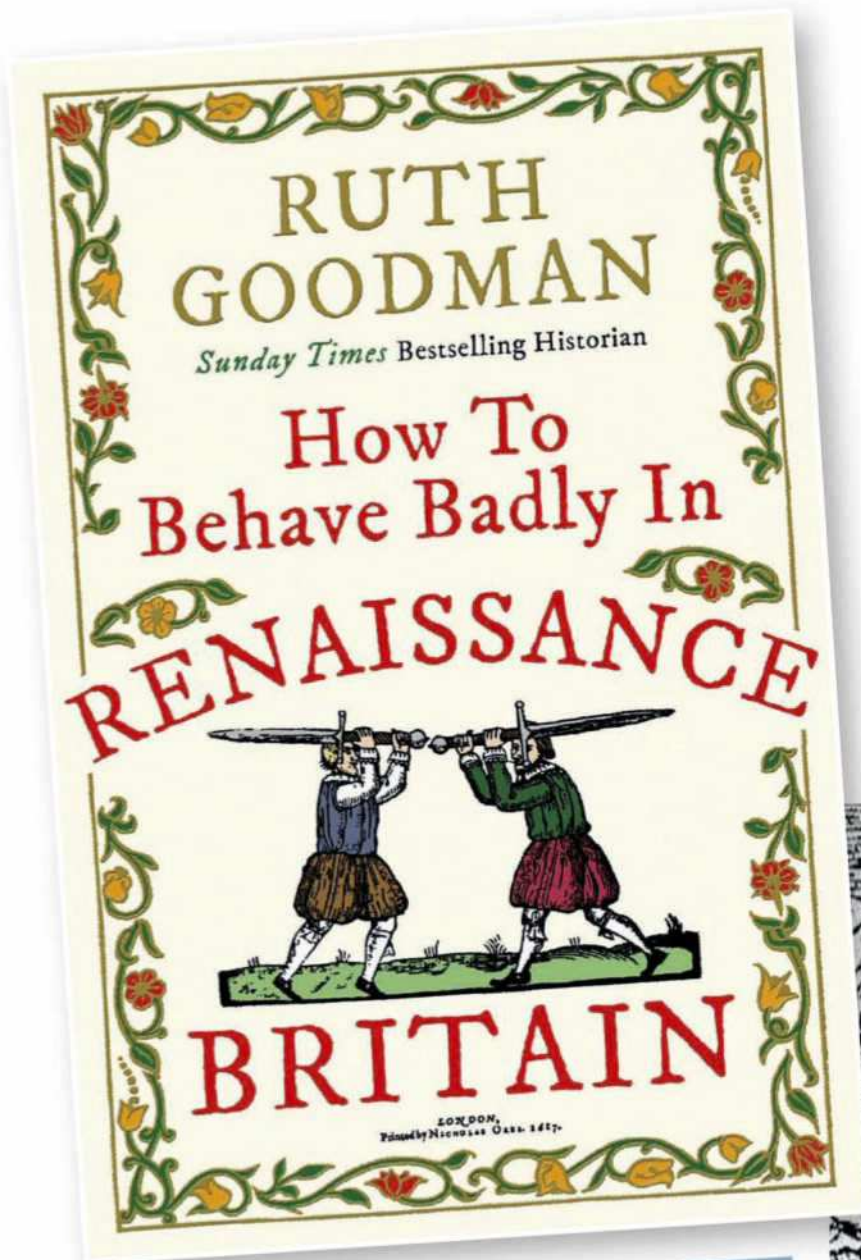
PETRIE MUSEUM

The Petrie Museum holds a leading collection of Egyptian and Sudanese archaeology, with more than 80,000 objects. www.ucl.ac.uk/culture/petrie_museum

BOOKS

This month's best historical reads

**BOOK
OF THE
MONTH**



How to Behave Badly in Renaissance Britain

By Ruth Goodman

Michael O'Mara Books, £20, hardback, 320 pages

As her appearances on TV series including the BBC's *Victorian Farm* demonstrate, historian and writer Ruth Goodman is committed to recreating life as it would really have been lived by our forebears. In this book, she focuses her attention on the bawdier side of life in the 16th and 17th centuries, asking what we'd find shocking if we were somehow able to travel back to the Tudor and Stuart eras. From ill manners to indecent behaviour, this entertaining look at misdemeanours and their perpetrators tells us much about wider society in Britain 400 years ago.



"Ruth asks what we'd find shocking if we were somehow able to travel back to the Tudor and Stuart eras"



Emasculated men
were often pictured
as having horns



Gossiping was as
impolite then as it is now,
but it was historically
seen as a female vice

MEET THE AUTHOR

What's the best insult a Tudor could muster? Social historian **Ruth Goodman** explores the way our perceptions of bad behaviour have changed – though, sometimes, not by much

Was the Renaissance period in Britain particularly rife with bad behaviour?

Bad behaviour takes many forms and is often hard to quantify – after all, no one counts up and records the modern incidents of people wiping their noses upon their sleeves. But, at the most extreme end of the scale, we do have some rather interesting numbers.

Several historians have undertaken exhaustive studies into crime rates in different parts of the country. Each has found evidence of a considerably higher level – roughly ten times higher, in fact – of homicide in the period between the arrival of the Tudor dynasty and the outbreak of the Civil Wars than that of modern Britain.



What actions that would seem innocuous to 21st-century eyes would have caused particular offence?

There are lots and vice versa. To give just one example, there was a rude gesture – long gone out of use – that is recorded as actually provoking duels. It was known as a 'flip', and seems to have been ruder than the modern two fingers. You performed it by bending your elbow and bringing your hand up to shoulder height. Then, with your palm facing outwards, you bent your middle finger and caught it upon the pad of your thumb, held for a moment and flicked it straight.

The preacher and rhetorician James Bulwer reported that a number of rather persistent gentlemen petitioned Francis Bacon, the attorney general [from 1613-17], to have it made illegal. The law, they argued, already granted redress to people whose honour and reputation was damaged by words, both written (libel) and spoken (slander) – so why not provide protection for those whose social standing was attacked by gestures?

What were some of the best insults and curses of the period?

"The fowlest place of myn arse ys fairer then thy face" is one of my favourites. It was shouted in the main street of Winchester by a young woman called Frideswide, at a woman who had been giving her mother some grief. "Lousy rogue, nitty britch knave and scurvy nitty britch knave" is not bad either, riffing upon

the theme of pubic lice. Finally, "she had more bulls following her than her cows had" is rather more imaginative I feel, and so appropriate for a rural situation.

Are there any notable similarities in bad behaviour between the Tudor or Stuart periods and today?

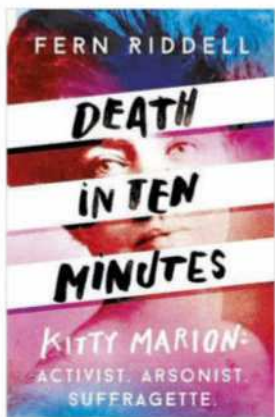
Some things are utterly different but many of the more bodily rules, taboos and injunctions of our Renaissance forebears have remained in place and unaltered. There are a few instances where we would have a few more scruples, such as a reluctance to spit in public, and there are conversely a few areas

where our laxity would cause consternation, particularly in matters of bodily exposure. But on the whole, the rules about the management of our bodies that our parents drum into us in childhood is much as that which was drummed into our young predecessors.

What new impression of this period more generally would you like readers to leave your book with?

I hope that my book leaves people with a tangible sense of our shared humanity, past and present. Despite the fundamentally different ideas and approaches to life that people took and the different conditions that they lived in, the individual response is both utterly understandable and compelling. I hope that people will share something of the same sense of connection with our ancestors that I do.

"A 'flip' seems to have been ruder than the modern two fingers"



Death in Ten Minutes: Kitty Marion – Activist, Arsonist, Suffragette

By Fern Riddell

Hodder & Stoughton, £20, hardback, 352 pages

In a year that has already seen a pleasingly diverse range of suffragette biographies, this is still a welcome addition. Kitty Marion may not now be as well known as the Pankhursts, but her life – packed with activism, arson and arrests – amply demonstrates just how radical such figures were prepared to be in their fight for women's rights.

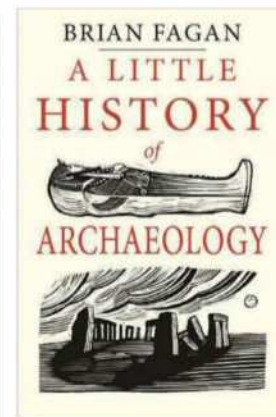


Napoleon, Volume 2: The Spirit of the Age

By Michael Broers

Faber and Faber, £30, hardback, 560 pages

The second volume in Michael Broers' biography of Napoleon covers just five years, from 1805 to 1810. But what a five years they were: decisively defeating the Russians and the Holy Roman Empire, being crowned king of Italy, and divorcing and remarrying. This weighty account spans all this and more, offering a comprehensive view of a man who was – at the time – seemingly unstoppable.

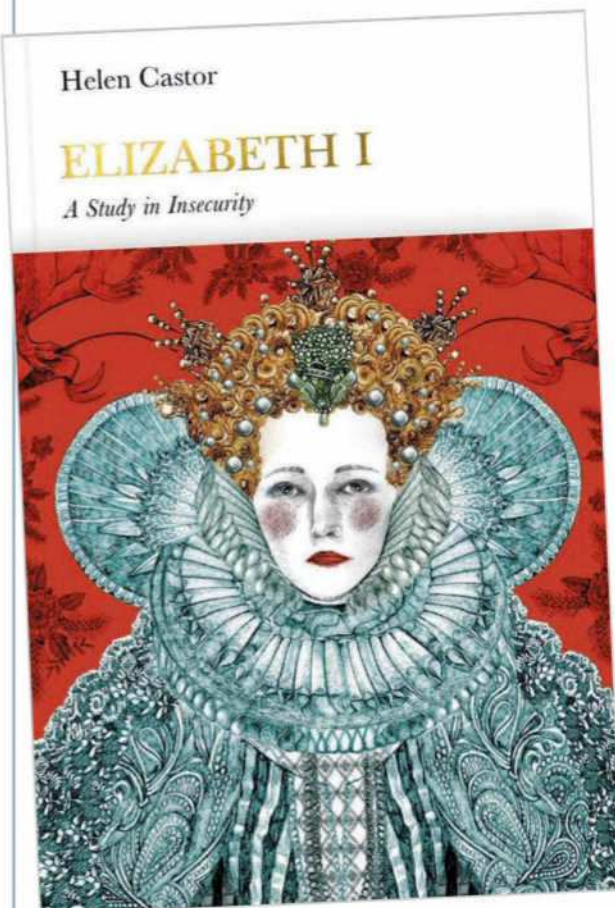


A Little History of Archaeology

By Brian Fagan

Yale University Press, £14.99, hardback, 288 pages

Dig into the story of archaeology with this potted guide, which acts as a kind of 'greatest hits' of the subject. Stonehenge, Pompeii, Egyptian tombs and ancient cave art all make an appearance, but so too do more recent discoveries and innovations. It's a great place to start if you're interested in how experts piece together the lives of our ancestors.



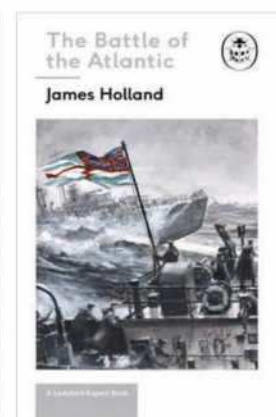
Elizabeth I

By Helen Castor

Allen Lane, £12.99, hardback, 128 pages

Can anything more be said about Elizabeth I, the Tudor 'virgin queen' who fascinates as much now as four centuries ago? Well, if this concise, incisive book by author and broadcaster Helen Castor is anything to go by, the answer is a resounding 'yes'. Exploring how power, politics and having Henry VIII as a dad irrevocably shaped her personality, it's a fresh look at a compelling figure.

"It explores how power, politics and having Henry VIII as a dad shaped her personality"

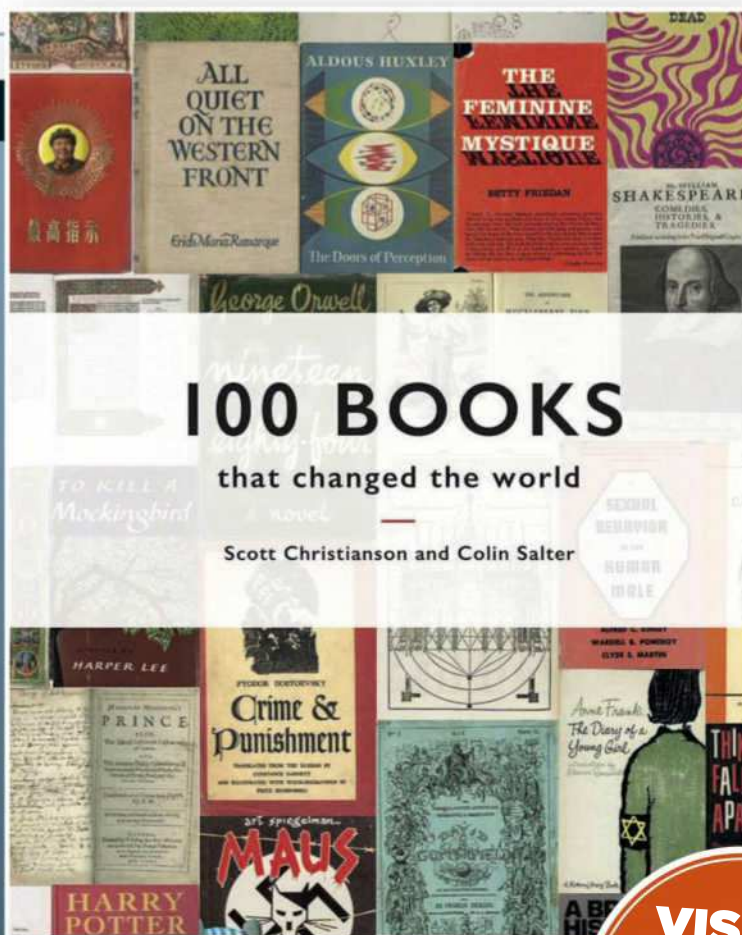


The Battle of the Atlantic

By James Holland

Michael Joseph, £7.99, hardback, 56 pages

The trend for modern books in retro formats continues with the Ladybird Expert series, which mixes the simplicity of the classic children's titles with surprisingly complex subjects. Here, James Holland looks at the World War II bid to keep oceanic supply lines open, with other titles in the latest batch exploring the Battle of Britain, the Blitzkrieg and – intriguingly venturing much further afield – the history of Timbuktu.



100 Books that Changed the World

By Scott Christianson and Colin Salter
Pavilion Books, £14.99, hardback, 224 pages

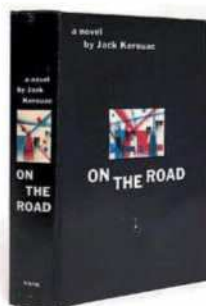
This visual history of the books, scrolls and manuscripts that have shaped the world starts with an ancient Chinese text, the *I Ching*, and runs chronologically, blending the expected and the more thought-provoking as it goes. So Dante and Dickens rub shoulders with Mrs Beeton and Dr Spock, along with graphic novels and children's books (*Harry Potter* fans will be pleased). This is an attractive, accessible testimony to the power of the written word.

“Dante and Dickens rub shoulders with Mrs Beeton and Dr Spock”

VISUAL BOOK OF THE MONTH



On the Road Jack Kerouac



The trouble with 100 Books That Changed the World is that it will make you realise how many excellent (and in several cases, revelatory) novels, theorems and treatises you have heard of yet haven't read



POSTCARDS FROM THE PAST

Send your historical landmark pics to photos@historyrevealed.com, message us on Facebook or use [#historyrevpostcards](#) on Twitter and Instagram

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CITY HALL, BELFAST

“ I took this photo in autumn, just as the sun was setting in the early evening. This beautiful and historic building holds special memories for me, as it was where I got married. ”

Taken by: Stephen Kerrigan [Bigstevo24_photography](#)





CHURCH STREET, LACOCK, WILTSHIRE


“ After spending time at Lacock Abbey, I searched the village for a view with no cars in it, and this house found me. As I walked down Church Street the low sun nearly blinded me, and I had to take a few steps back to admire this Tudor house. I adore the oak frame and cantilever first-floor room. This house might be 400 years old or more, and the oak trees used to make it might be another 300 years old. Just imagine what they have seen! ”

Taken by: Jon Godfrey
 [jongodfreyphotos](#)



LEADENHALL MARKET, LONDON

“ This was taken on a mid-July morning, in the heavily crowded area near Leadenhall Market. Walking through the industrialised part of London, I suddenly saw the market, which resembles nothing I had seen before. Beauty and cosiness where you'd least expect it. I warmly recommend going there if a visit to London is in the plans. ”

Taken by: Norman De Cleer
 [normandecleer](#)

FEELING INSPIRED?

Send your snaps to us and we'll feature a selection every issue.
photos@historyrevealed.com

READERS' LETTERS

Get in touch – share your opinions on history and our magazine

HIDDEN HEROES

I was interested in Pat Kinsella's article about one of the saviours of Jewish children during World War II, Irena Sendler (February 2018). It seems that there are still many unsung heroes and heroines of the war – for example, it was only recently that I heard about Sophie Scholl and the White Rose

LETTER OF THE MONTH



SILENT SAVIOUR

Rosalyn is on the lookout for more unsung saviours of World War II like Irena Sendler – us too!

Anne Frank's diary, the source of much deeper understanding of how Jews experienced life

because she was Viennese, like the policeman who was going to arrest her. Without these people, whose selflessness in caring for and saving others in times of need put themselves at risk, the world would be a much colder place. World War II may have ended 73 years ago, but it is amazing how much it is still relevant and affects life today.

Rosalyn Sword,
via email

EDITOR'S REPLY:

Hopefully, through the efforts of researchers and archivists, more stories of unsung heroes from WWII will come to light, adding some hope to what was otherwise a brutal time.

“The article brought home how sheer luck saved the lives of so many important people”

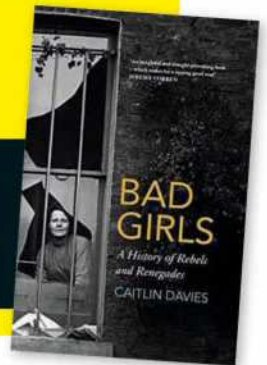
resistance group, who lost their lives spreading news of the war crimes in Nazi Germany.

Many more stories will surely be lost, since no one has survived to tell them. After all, it took many rejections before

in those times, was discovered by publishers and made known to the world.

The article also brought home how sheer luck saved the lives of so many important people in the world, from Irena Sendler to Miep Gies, who escaped arrest merely

Rosalyn wins a copy of *Bad Girls: A History of Rebels and Renegades* by Caitlin Davies (2018), an account of the Europe's most infamous women's prison. All sorts were held behind bars here, from murderer Myra Hindley to suffragette Emmeline Pankhurst and countless less-famous socialites, refugees and freedom fighters.



GUNNING FOR THE TRUTH

The idea that JFK-assassin Lee Harvey Oswald was part of a larger conspiracy doesn't wash with reader Martin

f In your February 2018 issue you featured the story of the amazing Irena Sendler. I would just like to bring your attention to the story of Mary Elmes, who has been called the Irish Schindler. Please keep up the great features.
Stephanie Walsh

THE LONE ASSASSIN

As someone who spent 20 years engrossed in all aspects of the JFK assassination, my interest re-awakened by a book by Michael Eddowes, I was interested that you bravely raised the subject in the February issue.

While not contesting your suggestion that those believing

Oswald to be a lone assassin are now in the minority, I would add a rider that people who have studied it in more depth may have come to a different conclusion. You mentioned Jim Garrison's book and Oliver Stone's film, but both have been widely discredited.

Gerald Posner's book *Case Closed* is probably the definitive work, debunking so many wild theories and it deserved, at the very least, a mention in your article. I believe the murder was Oswald's act alone. Both times that Dealey Plaza has been closed off for scientific tests, the conclusion was that all the shots were fired from the

Best issue of @
HistoryRevMag yet, missed
a train and a bus already by
being too engrossed in reading
and I don't even care!
@Jack Charlton-O'Grady

sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository. Oswald was too unpredictable and emotional for someone to have involved him in a plot, and I don't believe he was a patsy either.

It was Oswald's rifle, and he had the access, means and motive. Sometimes, the obvious answer is the right one.

Martin Creasy,
Fleet, Hampshire

A CUBAN CONSPIRACY?

Five years ago, I saw an article in *National Enquirer*, an American paper, that said the man who had killed JFK was a Cuban gangster hitman who had been paid by Fidel Castro. He had been smuggled, by boat, into the US. He revealed this to an associate in 1967. This hitman was killed in 1969, in Cuba, in a shooting incident. Thanks for a great magazine.

A J Hollis,
Letchworth Garden City

NOT INVINCIBLE

Reading Julian Humphrys's article on the annihilation of three Roman legions in the Teutoburg Forest (March 2018) under the command of a seasoned Augustan, governor-general Quintilius Varus, is like reading about the Custer massacre at the Little Bighorn – plenty of guts and bravado, but no real plan and surrounded by hostiles. The only difference between Custer and Varus was that one was a seasoned and experienced ex-civil war general and the other had been governor-general of a conquered province.

Duncan McVee, Darwen

CHARACTER ASSASSINATION

I found Philip Matyszak's article about Caligula (January 2018) of great interest and well written. It was certainly a welcome



FINGERING THE WRONG CULPRIT

David suggests that the black rat's filthy reputation as a disease-bearing menace may not be entirely warranted

change to read an article that delved into how ancient writers blackened Caligula's character and actions following his assassination. This is especially true these days, when Caligula is being used as a ridiculous comparison with Donald Trump, with stories dredged up about Caligula's insane cruelty and depravity.

David Wend, via email

A TOUCH OF COLOUR

In the latest issue I was intrigued by the answer to why the suffragettes wore the colours they did (Q&A, March 2018). When I was doing my MA in History and Politics, we were told the colours were green, white and violet, which stood for 'Give Women Votes'.

Lynn Cunningham,
via email

VINDICATED RATS?

After I read your article concerning the Black Death (January 2018), I came across an item in *The Week* that reported a study in Oslo. Those results concluded the primary cause of the plague was not fleas carried

by rats, but rather fleas and lice carried by infected humans. I suppose we'll never know.

David Schor,
Coraopolis, Pennsylvania

EDITOR'S REPLY:

You are quite right, that study does indeed say that human lice and fleas were the more likely to have transmitted the plague than rat fleas, based on data from from computer simulations. As with so many areas of history, saying so with any certainty is a more difficult task!

ARE YOU A WINNER?

The lucky winners of the crossword from issue 52 are:
Barrie Vinten, Rugby
Claire Gooder, Bournemouth
Elena Zhelezina, Cambridge

Congratulations! You've each won a copy of *The Battle of Algiers on DVD*, RRP £12.99. Originally released in 1966 and now digitally remastered, this classic war movie tells the story of the Algerian fight for independence.

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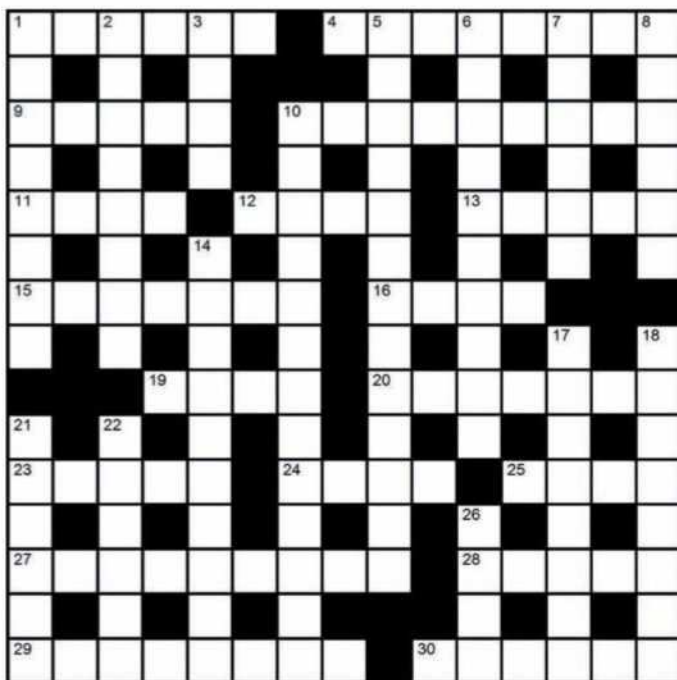
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ACROSS

- 1** Nickname of of the silent-movie comedian Joseph Frank Keaton (1895–1966) (6)
4 Russian city seized by the French in August 1812 (8)
9 Former name of the African state now known as the Democratic Republic of the Congo (5)
10 Miguel de ____ (d.1616), author of *Don Quixote* (9)
11 Berkshire village famous for its pragmatic clergyman (4)
12 “There is no more sombre enemy of good art than the ____ in the hall” – Cyril Connolly, 1938 (4)
13 “Draw the curtain, the ____ is played” – reputed last words of Francoid Rabelais (d.1553) (5)

- 15** Stage-name of the French playwright Jean-Baptiste Poquelin (1622–73) (7)
16 Ed ____ (1906–84), Wisconsin murderer (4)
19 László ____ (1899–1985), inventor of the ballpoint pen (4)
20 US forerunner of the internet, launched in 1969 (7)
23 “____! Thy plaintive anthem fades” – John Keats, 1819 (5)
24 Historic Staffordshire market-town – or Welsh national emblem? (4)
25 Elinor ____ (1864–1943), romantic novelist, author of *It and Other Stories* (1927) (4)
27 1950 Western directed by John Ford (3,6)
28 Hieronymus ____ (d.1516), Dutch painter of fantastical

- scenes and religious allegories (5)
29 New York menagerie that opened in 1899 (5,3)
30 Gardener Gertrude or Henry, alter-ego of Mr Hyde? (6)

DOWN

- 1** Another name for the German V-1 flying bomb or ‘doodlebug’ (4,4)
2 A ____ Boy, 1993 novel by Vikram Seth (8)
3 ‘Garden of God’ depicted in the book of Genesis (4)
5 Follower of Jesus, said to have witnessed his resurrection (4,9)
6 Shortened name of a 17 Down village re-named in the 1860s for promotional purposes (8,2)
7 Science journal first published in 1869 (6)
8 Turkish term for fate or destiny (6)
10 Luis ____ (1904–73), Francoist politician assassinated by Basque separatists (7,6)
14 Athenian tragedy by Sophocles (7,3)
17 Welsh island attacked by the Romans of Gaius Suetonius Paulinus in AD 60 (8)
18 Pen-name of Marie-Henri Beyle (1783–1842), author of *The Red and the Black* and other works (8)
21 City in Croatia, made a Free Royal Town in 1242 (6)
22 Traditional Japanese garment (6)
26 French term for a Catholic clergyman (4)

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SOLUTION N° 52



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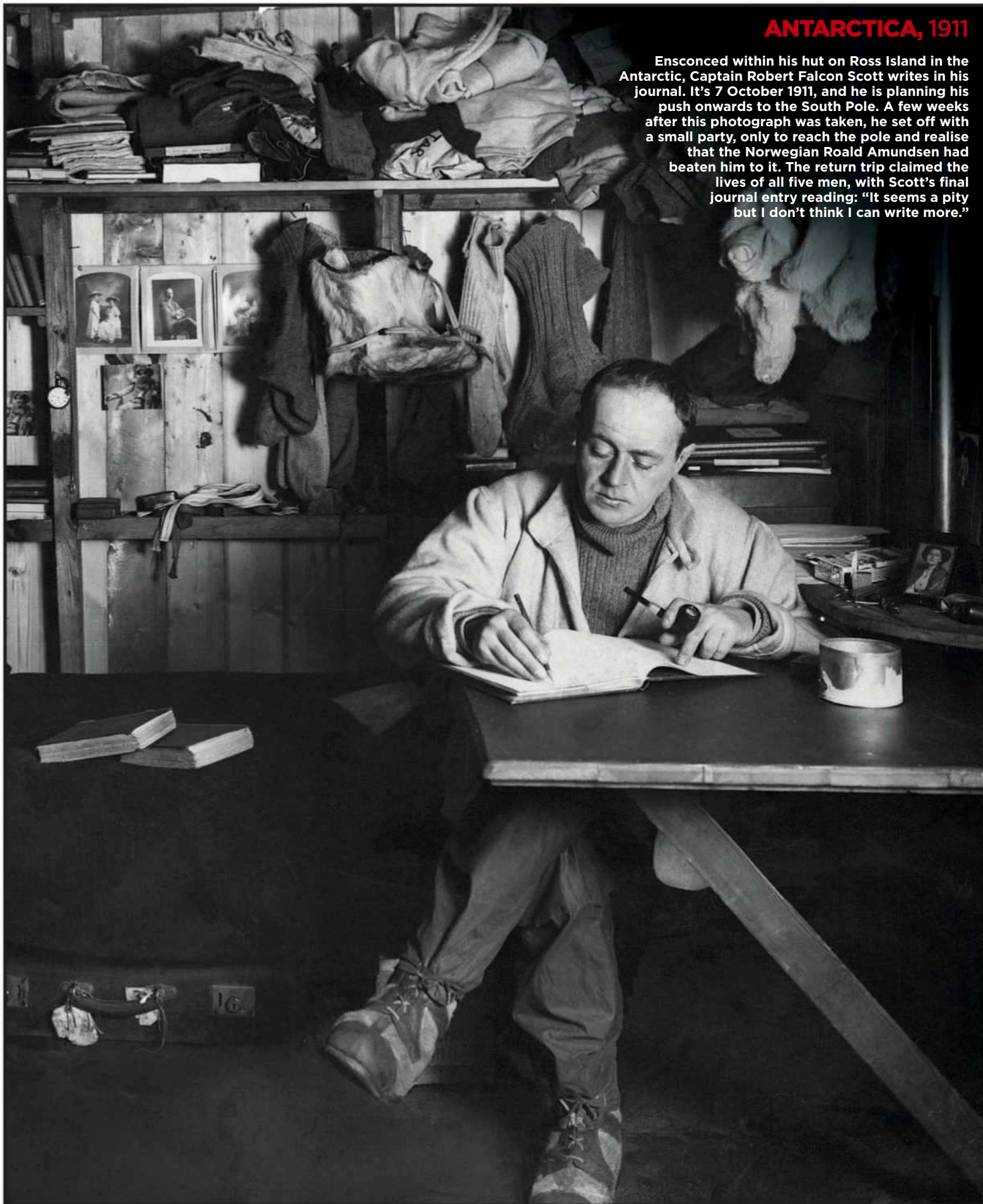
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HOW THE CIA STOLE SUNKEN SOVIET SUB K-129
WOUNDED KNEE MASSACRE THE CATO STREET
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PHARAOHS NIAGARA FALLS DAREDEVILS
HENRY V CLAIMS FRANCE AND MUCH MORE...

HISTORY
REVEALED Bringing the past to life

ANTARCTICA, 1911

Ensnared within his hut on Ross Island in the Antarctic, Captain Robert Falcon Scott writes in his journal. It's 7 October 1911, and he is planning his push onwards to the South Pole. A few weeks after this photograph was taken, he set off with a small party, only to reach the pole and realise that the Norwegian Roald Amundsen had beaten him to it. The return trip claimed the lives of all five men, with Scott's final journal entry reading: "It seems a pity but I don't think I can write more."



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1815: Napoleon's Waterloo Sunset



Mons 14-18, The First and the Last



Bastogne and the Battle of the Bulge



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